

Chaplet of St Gertrude

During one of her visions Jesus told ST. Gertrude that the following prayer would release 1000 souls from purgatory each time it is said:

'Eternal Father, I offer Thee the most precious blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family'

Approval and Recommendation by Cardinal Patriarca, Lisbon, Portugal,
March 4, 1936.

If one prays the entire St. Gertrude Chaplet (see below), which is said on an ordinary rosary, Our Lord releases 50,000 souls from purgatory each time it is said!

How easy it would be to empty out purgatory if we each prayed this form of the rosary just once a day!

CHAPLET OF SAINT GERTRUDE

How to pray the Chaplet of Saint Gertrude

The Chaplet of Saint Gertrude is prayed on an ordinary Rosary.

Beginning at the Cross, pray the "Apostle's Creed".

This is followed by 1 "Our Father", 3 "Hail Mary" and 1 "Glory be".

Starting on the Medal and then on the 4 large beads between each decade (sets of 10 beads), pray the "Our Father."

On each of the small beads (in the sets of 10 beads), say the following prayer:

"Eternal Father,
I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus,
in union with the Masses said throughout the world today,
for all the holy souls in Purgatory,
for sinners in the universal Church,

those in my own home,
and within my family.

Amen."

At the end of each set of 10 beads, say the following prayers:

"Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
open the hearts and minds of sinners
to the truth and light of God, the Father."

"Immaculate Heart of Mary,
pray for the conversion of sinners and the world."

and 1 "Glory be."

Then on the next large bead start again with the "Our Father".

Repeat above to the end of the Rosary.



Chaplet of the Saints

(Ordinary Rosary Beads)

Say Our Father, Hail Mary, Apostles Creed

On the Our Father Beads, Say St _____(any Saint you like, example, St Joseph, St Anthony of Padua, St Catherine of Siena, St Padre Pio) pray for me (_____insert your intentions)

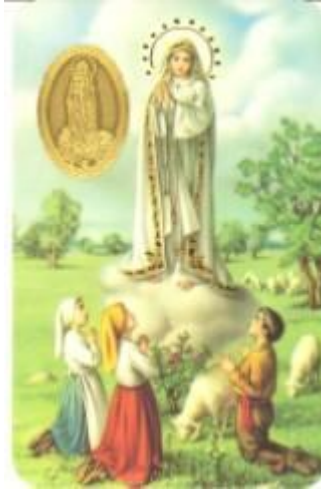
Proceed with Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Repeat for 5 decades.

This can be a replacement to Chaplet of St Anthony, Chaplet of St Jude, Chaplet of St Joseph, you can pray to any saint you like using ordinary rosary beads, and Insert the Petitions to the saint at the beginning of every decade.

Three intentions to ask the intercession of the saints: Conversion of Sinners, Perserverance of the Just, Relief for Souls in Purgatory (*St Anthony Mary Claret, Autobiography, pg 50-51*)

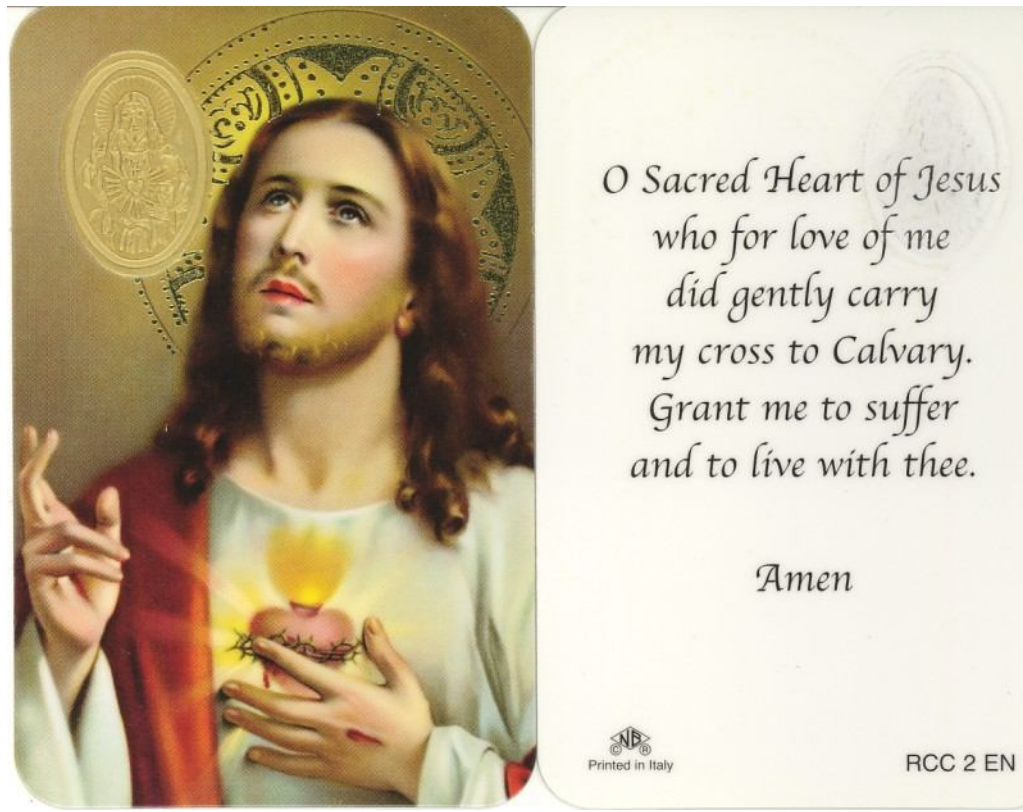
Prayer of Fatima



O My God, I believe, I adore, I trust, and I love you! And I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not trust, and do not love you.

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore thee profoundly. I offer thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of thee the conversion of poor sinners.

Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus by Rev. Irenaeus Schoenherr, O.F.M.

God has always dealt with men in a way consonant with their nature--by drawing them to His Holy Will by promises of reward. It was so with His dealings with the chosen people under the Old Dispensation. It was the way of Christ in the New, promising even a hundredfold return for compliance with His desires. And so it is in the history of the revelation and propagation of the devotion to the Sacred Heart.

"That men might more readily respond to that wonderful and overflowing desire of love," wrote Leo XIII in his Encyclical Annum Sacrum (1899) on the devotion, "Jesus, by the promise of rich rewards, called and drew all men to Him." St. Margaret Mary in her writings insists again and again on the ardent desire of Christ to pour out blessings with a royal generosity on those who would honor His Divine Heart and return Him love for love.

These Promises of the Sacred Heart, in the form in which they are now popularly known and approved by the Church, far surpass in variety, universality and importance those attached to any other exercises of devotion in the Church.

They are addressed to all sorts of persons: to the fervent, the tepid, and the sinful. They embrace every condition of life: priests, religious, and seculars. They promise relief to the afflicted, strength to the tempted, consolation to the sorrowful, peace to the family, blessings in the home, success in our enterprises, mercy to the sinner, high sanctity to fervent souls, courage to the cold of heart. They promise power to the priest to soften the hardest hearts. They promise strength and courage on our death-bed, and tell us of the priceless gift of final perseverance and of a refuge in the Heart of Christ at the last moment.

What greater or more valuable favors than these could even the omnipotent and boundless love and goodness of the Sacred Heart bestow on us? These Promises help us to an understanding of the truth of St. Margaret Mary's glowing words: "Jesus showed me how this devotion is, as it were, the final effort of His love, the last invention of His boundless Charity."

1st Promise-- "I will give to My faithful all the graces necessary in their state of life."

The duties of our daily life are numerous and often difficult. God grants us in response to prayer and frequent reception of the Sacraments all the necessary graces for our state of life. There are also extraordinary graces which lie outside the usual action of God's Providence, graces that He gives to His special friends. These are more efficacious graces, more plentifully given to the clients of the Sacred Heart.

2nd Promise -- "I will establish peace in their homes."

"Peace is the tranquillity of order, the serenity of mind, simplicity of heart, the bond of charity." (St. Augustine) It was the first thing the Angels wished to men at the birth of Jesus. Our Lord Himself bade His disciples to invoke it: "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' " (Luke 10, 5) In the Heart of Jesus will be found the true peace, that makes the home the reflex and anticipation of our heavenly Home.

3rd Promise -- "I will comfort them in all their afflictions."

The desire to comfort the sorrowful is the mark of a noble and kind heart. The Sacred Heart is the most noble and generous of hearts, both human and divine. How does He console us? Not necessarily by freeing us from sorrow and affliction. He knows the priceless value of the cross--that we have sins to expiate. By His grace, He makes what is painful tolerable. "I am filled with comfort, I overflow with joy in all our troubles." (2 Cor. 7, 4)

4th Promise -- "I will be their secure refuge in life, and above all in death."

"One of the soldiers opened His side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water." (John 19, 34) Christ's side was opened to show that Divine Providence wished all men to find in His Divine Heart an assured refuge against the enemies of our salvation. In His Heart we can find protection, strength in our frailty, perseverance in our inconstancy, assured refuge in the dangers and toils of life, and at the hour of death.

5th Promise -- "I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings."

"God is love." He is ready to give His children abundant temporal blessings as long as they do not imperil our eternal interests. His "special" Providence protects and watches over those devoted to the Sacred Heart with peculiar love and tenderness. However, we should not be discouraged if our prayers for temporal favors are not always answered, for God always puts our eternal good before our temporal good.

6th Promise--"Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy."

The Redemption is the immortal drama of God's mercy; and our Divine Redeemer is, as it were, God's Mercy Incarnate. "With the Lord is kindness and with Him plenteous Redemption." (Ps. 129, 7) On earth the Heart of Christ was full of mercy toward all. Now in His glorified humanity in heaven Jesus continues to show forth His boundless mercy, "always living to make intercession for us." (Heb. 7,25)

7th Promise -- "Tepid souls shall become fervent."

Lukewarmness is a languid dying state of the soul that has lost its interest in religion. The Holy Spirit expresses deep disgust for such a soul: "You are neither cold nor hot ... I am about to vomit you out of My mouth." (Apoc. 3, 15) The only remedy for it is devotion to the Sacred Heart, Who came "to cast fire on earth," i.e., to inspire the cold and tepid heart with new fear and love of God.

8th Promise -- "Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection."

High perfection is the reward that Christ bestows on the fervent clients of His Divine Heart; for this devotion has, as its special fruit, to transform us into a close resemblance to our Blessed Lord. This is done by kindling in our hearts the fire of divine love, which, as St. Paul says, "is the bond of perfection." (Col. 3, 14) Through devotion to the Sacred Heart self-love will give way to an

ardent zeal for His interests.

9th Promise -- "I will bless every place in which an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored."

Religious pictures are a powerful appeal and inspiration. The Sacred Heart is an open book wherein we may read the infinite love of Jesus for us in His Passion and Death. He shows us His Heart, cut open by the lance, all aglow like a fiery furnace of love, whose flames appear bursting forth from the top. It is encircled with thorns, the anguishing smarts of unheeded love. May it ever impel us to acts of love and generosity.

10th Promise -- "I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts."

The conversion of a sinner calls sometimes for extraordinary graces. God never forces the free will of a human being. But He can give actual graces with which He foresees the sinner will overcome the resisting attitude of the most obstinate sinful soul. This, then, is what occurs in the case of priests who are animated with great devotion to the Sacred Heart.

11th Promise -- "Those who promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be effaced."

This Promise holds out to promoters of devotion to the Sacred Heart a wonderful reward--they "shall have their names written in My Heart." These words imply a strong and faithful friendship of Christ Himself, and present to us "the Book of Life" of St. John: "I will not blot his name out of the book of life." (Apoc. 3, 5)

12th Promise -- "To those who shall communicate on the First Friday, for nine consecutive months, I will grant the grace of final penitence."

This Promise contains a great reward, which is nothing less than heaven. "Final perseverance is a gratuitous gift of God's goodness, and cannot be merited as an acquired right by any individual act of ours." (Council of Trent) It is given as the reward for a series of acts continued to the end: "He who has persevered to the end will be saved." (Matt. 10, 22)

History of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Among the wonderful developments of sacred teaching and piety, by which the plans of the divine wisdom are daily made clear to the Church, hardly any is more manifest than the triumphant progress made by the devotion of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Very often indeed, during the course of past ages, Fathers, Doctors, and Saints have celebrated our Redeemer's love: and they have said, that the wound opened in the side of Christ was the hidden fountain of all graces. Moreover, from the Middle Ages onward, when the faithful began to show a more tender piety towards the most sacred Humanity of the Savior, contemplative souls became accustomed to penetrate through that wound almost to the very Heart itself, wounded for the love of men.

And from that time, this form of contemplation became so familiar to all persons of saintly life, that there was no country or religious order in which, during this period, witnesses to it were not to be found. Finally, during recent centuries, and most especially at that period when heretics, in the name of a false piety, strove to discourage Christians from receiving the most Holy Eucharist, the veneration of the most Sacred Heart began to be openly practiced, principally through the exertions of St. John Eudes, who is by no means unworthily called the founder of the liturgical worship of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

But, in order to establish fully and entirely the worship of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, and to spread the same throughout the whole world, God himself chose as his instrument a most humble virgin from the order of the Visitation, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, who even in her earliest years already had a burning love for the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and to whom Christ the Lord had very many times appeared, and was pleased to make known the riches and the desires of his divine Heart.

The most famous of these appearances was that in which Jesus revealed himself to her in prayer before the blessed Sacrament, showed her his most Sacred Heart, and, complaining that in return for his unbounded love, he met with nothing but outrages and ingratitude from mankind, he ordered her to concern herself with the establishment of a new feast, on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi, on which his Heart should be venerated with due honor, and that the insults offered him by sinners in the Sacrament of love should be expiated by worthy satisfaction.

But there is no one who does not know how many and how great were the obstacles which the handmaid of God experienced, in carrying out the commands of Christ: but, endowed with strength by the Lord himself, and actively aided by her pious spiritual directors, who exerted themselves with an almost unbelievable zeal, up to the time of her death she never ceased faithfully to carry out the duty entrusted to her by heaven.

At length, in the year 1765, the Supreme Pontiff Clement XIII approved the Mass and Office in honor of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus; and Pius IX extended the feast to the universal Church, From then on the worship of the

most Sacred Heart, like an overflowing river, washing away all obstacles, has poured itself over the whole earth, and, at the dawn of the new century, Leo XIII, having proclaimed a jubilee, decided to dedicate the whole human race to the most Sacred Heart.

This consecration was actually carried out with solemn rites in all the churches of the Catholic world, and brought about a great increase of this devotion, leading not only nations but even private families to it, who in countless numbers dedicated themselves to the Divine Heart, and submitted themselves to its royal sway.

Lastly, the Sovereign Pontiff Pius XI, in order that, by its solemnity, the feast might answer more fully to the greatly widespread devotion of the Christian people, raised the feast of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus to the rite of a double of the first class, with an octave; and moreover, that the violated rights of Christ, the supreme King and most loving Lord, might be repaired, and that the sins of the nations might be bewailed, he ordered that annually, on that same feast-day, there should be recited an expiatory form of prayer in all the churches of the Christian world.

First Friday Devotions

Those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of the month and who assist at the public exercises in honor of the Sacred Heart, may gain: A plenary indulgence with the addition of Confession, Communion and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday, and recite privately some prayers in reparation for the injuries against the Sacred Heart, may gain: A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions. If, moreover, a public service is held, this latter indulgence can be gained only by those who are lawfully prevented from assisting at such a service.

Those who recite devout prayers of reparation on other Fridays of the year, may gain: An indulgence of 7 years once on each Friday. (Raccolta No. 252.)

Act of Consecration

I, N__ N__, give myself and consecrate to the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, my person and my life, my actions, pains and sufferings, so that I

may be unwilling to make use of any part of my being save to honor, love, and glorify the Sacred Heart.

This is my unchanging purpose, namely, to be all His, and to do all things for the love of Him, at the same time renouncing with all my heart whatever is displeasing to Him.

I therefore take Thee, O Sacred Heart, to be the only object of my love, the guardian of my life, my assurance of salvation, the remedy of my weakness and inconstancy, the atonement for all the faults of my life, and my sure refuge at the hour of death.

Be then, O Heart of goodness, my justification before God Thy Father, and turn away from me the strokes of His righteous anger. O Heart of love, I put all my confidence in Thee, for I fear everything from my own wickedness and frailty, but I hope for all things from Thy goodness and bounty.

Do Thou consume in me all that can displease Thee or resist Thy holy will; let Thy pure love imprint Thee so deeply upon my heart, that I shall nevermore be able to forget Thee or to be separated from Thee; may I obtain from all Thy loving kindness the grace of having my name written in Thee, for in Thee I desire to place all my happiness and all my glory, living and dying in very bondage to Thee.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Indulgence of three years; plenary indulgence once a month on the usual conditions for the daily devout recitation of this act of consecration. (Raccolta 258)

***An Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
(For the First Friday of the Month)***

Adorable Heart of Jesus, glowing with love for us and inflamed with zeal for our salvation: O Heart! ever sensible of our misery and the wretchedness to which our sins have reduced us, infinitely rich in mercy to heal the wounds of our souls, behold us humbly prostrate before Thee to express the sorrow that fills our hearts for the coldness and indifference with which we have so long requited the numberless benefits that Thou hast conferred upon us. With a deep sense of the outrages that have been heaped upon Thee by our sins and the sins of others, we come to make a solemn reparation of honor to thy most sacred majesty. It was our sins that overwhelmed Thy Heart with bitterness; it was the weight of our iniquities that pressed down Thy face to the earth in the Garden of Olives, and caused Thee to expire in anguish and agony on the cross. But now, repenting and sorrowful, we cast

ourselves at Thy feet, and implore forgiveness.

Adorable Heart of Jesus, source of true contrition and ever merciful to the penitent sinner, impart to our hearts the spirit of penance, and give to our eyes a fountain of tears, that we may sincerely bewail our sins now and for the rest of our days. Oh, would that we could blot them out, even with our blood! Pardon them, O Lord, in Thy mercy, and pardon and convert to Thee all that have committed irreverences and sacrileges against Thee in the sacrament, of Thy love, and thus give another proof that Thy mercy is above all Thy works. Divine Jesus, with Thee there are mercy and plentiful redemption; deliver us from our sins, accept the sincere desire we now entertain, and our holy resolution, relying on the assistance of Thy grace, henceforth to be faithful to Thee. And in order to repair the sins of ingratitude by which we have grieved Thy most tender and loving Heart, we are resolved in the future ever to love and honor Thee in the most adorable Sacrament of the Altar, where Thou art ever present to hear and grant our petitions, and to be the food and life of our souls. Be Thou, O compassionate Jesus! our Mediator with Thy heavenly Father, Whom we have so grievously offended, strengthen our weakness, confirm these our resolutions of amendment, and as Thy Sacred Heart is our refuge and our hope when we have sinned, so may it be the strength and support of our repentance, that nothing in life or death may ever again separate us from Thee. Amen.

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven,

*Have mercy on us**

*God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,**

*God, the Holy Ghost,**

*Holy Trinity, one God,**

*Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father,**

*Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Ghost in the Virgin Mother's womb,**

*Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God,**

*Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty,**

*Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God,**

*Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High,**

*Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven,**

*Heart of Jesus, glowing furnace of charity,**

*Heart of Jesus, vessel of justice and love,**
*Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,**
*Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues,**
*Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,**
*Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts,**
*Heart of Jesus, wherein are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,**
*Heart of Jesus, wherein dwelleth all the fulness of Godhead**
*Heart of Jesus, in Whom the Father is well pleased,**
*Heart of Jesus, of Whose fulness we have all received,**
*Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills,**
*Heart of Jesus, patient and rich in mercy,**
*Heart of Jesus, rich unto all who call upon Thee,**
*Heart of Jesus, fount of life and holiness,**
*Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our offenses,**
*Heart of Jesus, overwhelmed with reproaches,**
*Heart of Jesus, bruised for our iniquities,**
*Heart of Jesus, obedient even unto death,**
*Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance,**
*Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,**
*Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,**
*Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation,**
*Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins,**
*Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who hope in Thee,**
*Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in Thee,**
*Heart of Jesus, delight of all saints,**

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world.
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

V. Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
R. Make our hearts like unto Thine.

Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, look upon the Heart of Thy well-beloved Son and upon the praise and satisfaction which He offers unto Thee in the name of sinners; and do Thou of Thy great goodness grant them pardon when they seek Thy mercy, in the name of the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee for ever and ever. Amen.

Indulgence of seven years, each time.--Leo XIII, April 2, 1899; S. P. Ap., March 10, 1933.

Consecration of the Family to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Who manifested to Blessed Margaret Mary the desire of reigning in Christian families, we today wish to acknowledge publicly Your absolute dominion over our family. We desire henceforth to live with Your life; we desire to let those virtues take root and thrive among us to which You have promised peace here below; we will banish far from us that spirit of the world which You cursed.

Rule, therefore, over our minds through the simplicity of our faith and over our hearts through the wholehearted love with which they shall burn for You, the flame of which we shall keep alive through the frequent reception of the Divine Eucharist.

Deign, O Divine Heart, to preside over our assemblies, to bless our spiritual and temporal enterprises, to dispel our cares, to sanctify our joys and to alleviate our sufferings. If one or other of us should at any time have the misfortune to afflict You, remind him, O Heart of Jesus, that You are good and merciful to the penitent sinner. And when the hour of separation strikes, when death shall come to cast gloom into our midst, we will all, both those who go and those who stay, be resigned to Your eternal decrees. We will console ourselves with the thought that a day will come when the entire family, reunited in Heaven, can sing forever Your glories and Your mercies.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the glorious Patriarch St. Joseph present this consecration to You, and keep it in our minds all the days of our life. All glory to the Heart of Jesus, our King and our Father.

** Indulgence: a) The members of a family, on the day when for the first time the family is consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, if they recite the above prayer before a likeness of the Sacred Heart, are granted: An indulgence of 7 years. A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions.*

b) The members of a family, on the day when this consecration is renewed each year, if they make use of the same prayer before a likeness of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, are granted: An indulgence of 3 years. A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions. (Raccolta 705)

Aspirations to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, protect our families.

An indulgence of 300 days each time. Plenary indulgence monthly under the usual conditions, if recited daily. (Raccolta 236)

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your kingdom come.

An indulgence of 300 days each time. (Raccolta 228)

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

An, indulgence of 500 days each time. Plenary indulgence monthly under the usual conditions. (Raccolta 242)

Sacred Heart of Jesus, may You be known, loved, and imitated.

An indulgence of 300 days once a day. (Raccolta 235)

Sweet Heart of Jesus, I implore, that I may love You more and more.

An indulgence of 300 days each time. For its daily recital a plenary indulgence is granted once a month under the usual conditions. (Raccolta 224)

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Thine.

An indulgence of 500 days each time. Plenary indulgence monthly under the usual conditions. (Raccolta 227)

All for You, O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

An indulgence of 300 days each time. (Raccolta 234)

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Your love for me.

An indulgence of 300 days each time. (Raccolta 230)

Heart of Jesus, let me love You and make You loved.

An indulgence of 300 days each time. (Raccolta 240)

O Heart of love, I put all my trust in You; for I fear all things from my own weakness, but I hope for all things from Your goodness.

An indulgence of 300 days each time. Plenary indulgence monthly under the usual conditions. (Raccolta 232)

O Divine Heart of Jesus, convert the sinners, save the dying, and release the holy souls in Purgatory.

An indulgence of 300 days each time. (Raccolta 229)

Sweet Heart of Jesus, be my love.

An indulgence of 300 days each time. (Raccolta 237)

Honor, Love and Thanksgiving be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

An indulgence of 300 days each time. (Raccolta 231)

Prayer to the Sacred Heart

Hail! O sacred Heart of Jesus, living and quickening source of eternal life, infinite treasure of the Divinity, and burning furnace of divine love. Thou art my refuge and my sanctuary, O my amiable Savior. Consume my heart with that burning fire with which Thine is ever inflamed. Pour down on my soul those graces which flow from Thy love, and let my heart be so united with

Thine, that our wills may be one, and mine in all things be conformed to Thine. May Thy divine will be equally the standard and rule of all my desires and of all my actions. Amen

Saint Gertrude

Form of Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before Thine Altar (outside a church or oratory say: in Thy presence). We are Thine, and Thine we wish to be; but to be more surely united to Thee, behold, each one of us this day freely dedicates himself to Thy Most Sacred Heart. Many, indeed, have never known Thee; many, too, despising Thy precepts have rejected Thee. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to Thy Sacred Heart. Be Thou King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken Thee, but also of the prodigal sons who have abandoned Thee; grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house, lest they perish of wretchedness and hunger. Be Thou King of those whom heresy holds in error or discord keeps aloof; call them back to the harbor of truth and the unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one fold and one Shepherd.

Be Thou King of all those who even now sit in the shadow of idolatry or Islam, and refuse not Thou to bring them into the light of Thy kingdom. Look, finally, with eyes of pity upon the children of that race, which was for so long a time Thy chosen people: and let Thy Blood, which was once invoked upon them in vengeance, now descend upon them also in a cleansing flood of redemption and eternal life. Grant, O Lord, to Thy Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; unto all nations give an ordered tranquillity; bring it to pass that from pole to pole the earth may resound with one cry: Praise to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to It be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

(Indulgence: 5 years, each time)

A FEW SELECTIONS FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. MARGARET MARY

The Promises of the Sacred Heart

The twelve promises which we find in prayerbooks and manuals of the devotion to the Sacred Heart do not contain all the promises made by our Divine Lord to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. They are not even a summary of them, but are rather a selection of those promises best calculated to arouse

sentiments of love for Our Lord in the hearts of the faithful and to induce them to practice the devotion. These twelve promises are found in the writings of St. Margaret Mary, but not all in one place.

We give here the complete list of the various promises, as found in Monsignor Gauthey's edition of the writings of St. Margaret Mary, but we do not give the full text. Those who wish to have the full text of the promises will find it in The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus the Essence of Christianity, pages 48 to 69. But first, we present the basic twelve promises without commentary: Near the conclusion of this section. St. Margaret Mary writes an explanation of how the Nine First Fridays are to be practiced. The Prayer for Daily Neglect was not written by St. Margaret Mary but because it is so invaluable an aid with have included it here as it is a prayer to the Sacred Heart that is to be said daily, thus it can be incorporated into the practice of the Devotion easily, it is short and known to be efficacious.

THE NINE FIRST FRIDAYS DEVOTION AND THE TWELVE PROMISES OF THE SACRED HEART MADE TO ST. MARGARET MARY WITH ADDED PRAYER FOR DAILY NEGLECT

1. I WILL GIVE THEM ALL THE GRACES NECESSARY FOR THEIR STATE OF LIFE.
2. I WILL GIVE PEACE IN THEIR FAMILIES
3. I WILL CONSOLE THEM IN ALL THEIR TROUBLES.
4. THEY SHALL FIND IN MY HEART AN ASSURED REFUGE DURING LIFE AND ESPECIALLY AT THE HOUR OF DEATH.
5. I WILL POUR ABUNDANT BLESSINGS ON ALL THEIR UNDERTAKINGS.
6. SINNERS SHALL FIND IN MY HEART THE SOURCE AND INFINITE OCEAN OF MERCY.
7. TEPID SOULS SHALL BECOME FERVENT.
8. FERVENT SOULS SHALL SPEEDILY RISE TO GREAT PERFECTION.
9. I WILL BLESS THE HOMES IN WHICH THE IMAGE OF MY SACRED HEART SHALL BE EXPOSED AND HONORED.
10. I WILL GIVE TO PRIESTS THE POWER TO TOUCH THE MOST HARDENED HEARTS.
11. THOSE WHO PROPAGATE THIS DEVOTION SHALL HAVE THEIR NAME WRITTEN IN MY HEART, AND IT SHALL NEVER BE EFFACED.
12. THE ALL-POWERFUL LOVE OF MY HEART WILL GRANT TO ALL THOSE WHO SHALL RECEIVE COMMUNION ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF NINE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS THE GRACE OF FINAL REPENTANCE; THEY SHALL NOT DIE UNDER MY DISPLEASURE, NOR WITHOUT RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS; MY HEART SHALL BE THEIR ASSURED REFUGE AT THE LAST HOUR.

This devotion consists in attending Holy Mass and receiving Holy Communion in reparation for those who do not receive Our Lord, who do not love Him and who wound Him by their sinful lives.

"I promise you, in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday of nine

consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their Sacraments, My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment."

-----Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary

Prayer for Daily Neglects

ETERNAL FATHER, I offer You the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with all its love, all its sufferings, and all its merits.

First, to expiate all the sins I have committed this day and during all my life.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall ever be, world without end. Amen.

Second, to purify the good I have done poorly this day and during all my life.

Glory be, etc.

Third, to supply for the good I ought to have done, and that I have neglected this day and all my life. Glory be, etc.

HISTORY: Soon after death, a Poor Clare nun appeared to her abbess, who was praying for her, and said: "I went straight to Heaven because I paid all my debts by virtue of this prayer."

MAIN SOURCE:

PRAYERS AND HEAVENLY PROMISES, COMPILED FROM APPROVED SOURCES

By Joan Carroll Cruz

PROMISES ATTACHED TO THE VENERATION OF THE IMAGE OF THE SACRED HEART

a) BLESSINGS PROMISED TO NATIONS THAT PUT THE IMAGE OF THE SACRED HEART ON THEIR STANDARDS:

". . . Our Divine Lord does not wish to stop there: He desires, it seems to me, to enter with pomp and magnificence into the houses of princes and kings, in order to be honored there as much as He was outraged, despised and humiliated in His Passion, and to receive as much pleasure at seeing the great ones of this world abased and humiliated before Him, as He felt bitterness at seeing Himself annihilated at their feet."

b) BLESSINGS PROMISED TO FAMILIES WHERE THE IMAGE OF THE SACRED HEART IS HONORED:

"Our Divine Lord assured me that He takes a singular pleasure in being honored under the figure of His Heart of flesh, the image of which He wishes to be exposed in public in order to touch the unfeeling hearts of men. He promised that He would pour out in abundance into the hearts of all those who would honor His Heart all the gifts with which It is filled, and that everywhere this image is exposed and honored, it would draw down all kinds of blessings."

c) BLESSINGS PROMISED TO COMMUNITIES:

"He promised that He would pour out the sweet unction of His ardent charity on all those communities in which this divine image would be honored; that He would turn away from them the thunderbolts of the just

anger of God, and that He would restore them to His grace, if they should have the misfortune to fall into sin."

d) BLESSINGS PROMISED TO INDIVIDUALS:

"He promised to pour out into the hearts of all those who honor the image of His Heart all the gifts which It contains. He promised also to imprint His love on the hearts of all those who would wear this image on their persons, and that He would destroy in them all disordered movements."

PROMISES ATTACHED TO THE CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART
Consecration to the Sacred Heart is the principle, the resume and the final term of all the devotional practices demanded by our Divine Lord for His Sacred Heart.

a) THIS CONSECRATION REJOICES THE SACRED HEART AND TERRIFIES THE DEVIL, AGAINST WHOM IT IS A POWERFUL WEAPON.

"Let us renew often our consecration to the Heart of Jesus," writes St. Margaret Mary, "and let us live that consecration faithfully. The Sacred Heart takes a singular pleasure in it.

"The devil has a most intense fear of the devotion to this loving Heart, because of the salvation of the multitude of souls which it effects in favor of those who consecrate themselves completely to the Sacred Heart for the purpose of loving It, honoring It, and glorifying It."

b) CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART IS A SOVEREIGN REMEDY AGAINST MORTAL SIN.

"I cannot believe," writes St. Margaret Mary, "that those consecrated to the Heart of Jesus will fall under the domination of Satan through mortal sin, if having consecrated themselves to the Heart of Jesus, they endeavor to honor It, love It, and glorify It, by conforming themselves in all things to Its holy maxims."

c) CONSECRATION PUTS SOULS ON THE ROAD TO PERFECTION.

"There is no surer means of attaining perfection than to be consecrated to the Heart of Jesus. If therefore, we wish to attain that perfection which the adorable Heart of Jesus desires of us, we must make an entire sacrifice of ourselves, and of everything that depends on us, to the Sacred Heart and live entirely for It."

d) CONSECRATION WILL PROCURE PEACE.

"Establish your dwelling in the amiable Heart of Jesus, and you will find unalterable peace, strength to carry out all your good desires, and a protection against voluntary faults."

e) CONSECRATION IS THE KEY WHICH OPENS THE SACRED HEART TO US.

"Our Lord gave me to understand that He wishes to be known, loved and adored by men, and for that end He would give them many graces, provided they consecrated themselves to the devotion and love of His Sacred Heart."

f) CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART IS A PLEDGE OF SALVATION.

"There is no surer means of salvation than to consecrate oneself to the Divine Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ. "The loving Heart of Jesus will not allow any of those consecrated to It to perish, so great is His desire that His Sacred Heart be known, loved and honored by His creatures. In this Sacred Heart they will find assistance during their life in all their necessities; It will be their secure place of refuge at the hour of their death, into which they will be received and protected from their enemies."

PROMISES MADE IN FAVOR OF SINNERS

THE DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART IS AN EFFICACIOUS MEANS
OFFERED FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS.

"My Divine Master:" writes St. Margaret Mary, "revealed to me that it was His ardent desire to be known, loved and honored by men, and His eager desire to draw them back from the road to perdition, along which Satan is driving them in countless numbers, that induced Him to manifest His Heart to men with all the treasures of love, mercy, grace, sanctification and salvation that It contains, in order to have a means of satisfying Its desire to pour out on them abundantly Its mercies and Its graces. It is by this means that the Sacred Heart of our loving Jesus wishes to save many souls from eternal perdition . . . This Divine Heart is like a fortress or a secure place of refuge for all poor sinners who wish to take shelter in It from the Justice of Almighty God, the thunderbolts of whose wrath, like an impetuous torrent, would overwhelm sinners and their sins, on account of the enormous number committed at the present time."

THE DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART IS A SOVEREIGN REMEDY
AGAINST TEPIDITY.

"Our Lord wishes through this devotion to His Divine Heart to rekindle the charity that has grown cold and has almost been extinguished in the hearts of the greater part of Christians; He wishes to give men a new means of loving God by His Sacred Heart, as much as He desires and merits, and of making reparation for their ingratitude.

"If we are cowardly, cold, impure, imperfect, the Sacred Heart is an ardent furnace in which we must purify and perfect ourselves like gold in the crucible. It will purify all that is imperfect in our actions; it will sanctify those that are good."

PROMISES MADE IN FAVOR OF THE JUST

"There is no shorter way of attaining perfection than to render to the Divine Heart an the homage, love, honor and praise in our power.

"I do not know of any other exercise in the spiritual life more calculated to raise a soul in a short time to the height of perfection, and make it taste the true sweetness that is to be found in the service of God; if it were known how pleasing this devotion is to Jesus Christ, there is no Christian, however little his love for our amiable Savior, who would not begin to practice it immediately."

"The names of beginners," writes St. Margaret Mary, "are written on the adorable Heart of Jesus only with ink. This signifies the initial grace given us to combat and conquer our imperfections, especially our proud self-love, which insinuates itself everywhere, sully and disfiguring our holiest actions. These black letters should be purified from the earth which they contain and made bright in the crucible. This means that our inclinations and actions should be purified in the furnace of the love of the Divine Heart from all that is earthly and human and from all self-seeking.

"These black letters will gradually brighten in the crucible of Divine Love, and become like silver, which signifies purity of heart. But when in the process of purification all the black letters are changed into letters of silver, we must not stop there, we must continue until they are changed into gold.

"It is love that will change them into gold. Charity is the divine gold that will write our names on the Heart of Jesus in letters never to be effaced. We shall then become like holocausts, consumed completely in the ardent flames of the loving Heart of Jesus."

PROMISES FOR THE AFFLICTED

a) THE HEART OF JESUS CONSOLES HIS SERVANTS
IN THEIR PRIVATE CALAMITIES.

b) THE HEART OF JESUS IS THE TRUE SOURCE OF CONSOLATION
IN PUBLIC CALAMITIES.

PROMISES THAT HAVE REFERENCE TO OUR LAST END THE GREAT PROMISE

This promise is contained in a letter written in May, 1688, by St. Margaret Mary to Mother Saumaise:

"On a Friday during Holy Communion, He said these words to His unworthy slave, if I mistake not: I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that Its all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on nine first Fridays of the month consecutively, the grace of final repentance; they will not die under My displeasure or without receiving their Sacraments, My Divine Heart making Itself their assured refuge at the last moment."

With regard to this promise it may be remarked: 1) that Our Lord required Communion to be received on a particular day chosen by Him; 2) that the nine Fridays must be consecutive; 3) that they must be made in honor of His Sacred Heart, which means that those who make the nine Fridays must practice the devotion and must have a great love for Our Lord; 4) that Our Lord does not say that those who make the nine Fridays will be dispensed from any of their obligations or from exercising the vigilance necessary to lead a good life and overcome temptation; rather He implicitly promises abundant graces to those who make the Nine Fridays to help them to carry

out these obligations and persevere to the end; 5) that perseverance in receiving Holy Communion for nine consecutive First Fridays helps the faithful to acquire the habit of frequent Communion, which Our Lord eagerly desires; and 6) finally, that the practice of the Nine Fridays is very pleasing to Our Lord since He promises such a great reward, and that all Catholics should endeavor to make the Nine Fridays.

PROTECTION PROMISED BY OUR LORD AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH.
"The Divine Heart of Jesus again gave me to understand and assured me," writes St. Margaret Mary, "that the pleasure which He takes in being known, loved and honored by His creatures is so great that He promised me that none of those who practice this amiable devotion and are devoted to His adorable Heart will ever perish."

SPECIAL REWARDS IN HEAVEN FOR THOSE WHO ARE DEVOTED TO THE SACRED HEART

"The adorable Heart of Jesus has shown inexpressible favor to our Holy Founder [St. Francis de Sales] because the devotion has been established in our Institute. Never has his accidental glory been so much increased as by this means. [The order is the Visitation Order.]

"Our good Father Claude de la Colombiere by his intercession in Heaven is the cause of what takes place here on earth for the glory of the Sacred Heart."

PROMISES MADE FOR PEOPLE IN THE WORLD AND THEIR FAMILIES

"Our Divine Lord assured me," writes St. Margaret Mary, "that He takes such pleasure in being known, loved and honored by His creatures, that He promises: 1) that people in the world will find through this amiable devotion all the helps necessary for their state of life, that is to say; 2) peace in their families: He promised me that He will unite families that are divided. Our Divine Lord wishes us to have great charity for our neighbor; He wishes us to pray to Him for our neighbor as we would for ourselves, for it is one of the special effects of this devotion to unite hearts divided and to bring peace to souls; 3) consolation in their afflictions; 4) solace in their labors: He promised that He would protect and assist families that were in any necessity, if they addressed themselves to Him with confidence; 5) the blessings of Heaven on all their enterprises; 6) that in His Sacred Heart they would find refuge during their life and especially at the hour of their death."

SPECIAL PROMISES MADE TO PERSONS CONSECRATED TO GOD PROMISES MADE TO RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

"Our Divine Lord promised me," writes St. Margaret Mary, "that as His Sacred Heart is the source of all blessings, He will pour out the sweet unction of His ardent charity on all those communities where His Sacred Heart is honored and who place themselves under Its special protection. "He promised me that He would keep their hearts united so that they would form but one.

"He promised me that He would turn away the thunderbolts of Divine Justice from them and restore them to favor, if they should fall.

"Let religious embrace this amiable devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for they will draw from It such help that no other means will be needed to reestablish in their first fervor and in the most exact observance of their rule those communities that have become lax, and to bring to the height of perfection communities that are already fervent."

TEN PROMISES FOR THE APOSTLES OF THE SACRED HEART FIRST PROMISE FOR APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

"My Divine Master," writes St. Margaret Mary, "showed me the names of several persons written in letters of gold on His Sacred Heart, names of which He will never allow to be effaced. These are the names of the persons who have labored the most to make His Sacred Heart known and loved."

SECOND PROMISE FOR APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

"The Sacred Heart of Jesus has such a great desire to be known, loved and honored by men; He wishes so ardently to establish the empire of His love in all hearts by destroying in them the empire of Satan, that He promises great recompenses to all those who devote themselves with their whole hearts to establishing the reign of His Sacred Heart according to the lights and graces which He gives them."

THIRD PROMISE FOR APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

In addition to the friendship of the Divine Heart, the apostles of the Devotion are assured of the protection of the Blessed Virgin and of the Saints, especially of St. Margaret Mary.

She writes: "Oh! what happiness for us and for all who contribute in making the loving Heart of Jesus known and glorified! For they will draw down upon themselves the friendship and eternal blessings of this unique Love of our hearts. The Blessed Virgin will be their special protectress, she will assist them in attaining to the perfect life."

FOURTH PROMISE FOR APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

The apostles of the Sacred Heart will make rapid progress in virtue. The Sacred Heart of Jesus will sanctify and glorify them.

"The loving Heart of Jesus," writes St. Margaret Mary, "has made known to me that He will take care to sanctify and glorify us before His Heavenly Father in the measure in which we exert ourselves to procure glory for Him and to increase the reign of His love in the hearts of men."

FIFTH PROMISE FOR THE APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

The apostles of the Sacred Heart will receive the grace of the pure love of God.

"The zeal with which you labor to make the Sacred Heart of Jesus known and loved will gain for you in an ever increasing degree the crowning gift of the pure love of God."

SIXTH PROMISE FOR THE APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

The apostles of the Sacred Heart will draw down special blessings on their native land and on their families.

"Oh! what happiness for those who contribute to making the adorable Heart of Jesus known, loved and glorified! By what means they will secure a powerful Protector for their native land."

SEVENTH PROMISE FOR THE APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

Great blessings are reserved for the works of zeal undertaken by those apostolic workers who propagate the devotion to the Sacred Heart. They will make great conversions.

"My divine Savior," writes St. Margaret Mary, "assured me that those who labor for the salvation of souls will have the art of touching the hardest hearts and will obtain marvelous success, if they themselves are animated with a tender devotion to His Divine Heart.

"He will penetrate the most unfeeling hearts by the words of His preachers and faithful friends. He will so pour out the sweet unction of His ardent charity with such strong and powerful graces on their words that He will make them like a flaming sword which will cause the most frozen hearts to melt in His love. The words of these apostles will be like two-edged swords, which will penetrate the most hardened hearts and make the holy fountain of penance spring up in them, purifying and sanctifying the most obstinate sinners and rendering them susceptible to the love of this Divine Heart. By this means the most criminal souls will be led on to salutary penance."

EIGHTH PROMISE FOR THE APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

It will be given to the apostles of the Sacred Heart to understand the inestimable value of the Cross, and they will obtain strength and consolation in their difficulties.

"The adorable Heart of Jesus," writes St. Margaret Mary, "wishes to establish the reign of His pure love in all hearts. Happy are those whom He will employ to aid Him to establish His reign! But He did not tell me that His friends would have nothing to suffer, for He wishes them to make their greatest happiness consist in tasting its bitterness."

NINTH PROMISE FOR THE APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

The apostles of the Sacred Heart will obtain the grace of final perseverance and of a holy death.

TENTH PROMISE FOR THE APOSTLES OF THE DEVOTION

The Sacred Heart Itself will be the reward of Its apostles. "Happy are those," writes St. Margaret Mary, "whom the Sacred Heart of Jesus will employ in establishing His reign. For it seems to me that It is like a king who thinks only of recompensing His friends while He gains victories and triumphs over His enemies. When this Heart reigns victorious on Its throne, It will be Itself their eternal recompense."

PARTICULAR PROMISES MADE AND SPECIAL MISSION ENTRUSTED TO THE ORDER OF THE VISITATION AND TO THE JESUIT FATHERS

"This mission," writes Father Ramiere, S.J., "is not of an exclusive character. It is a source of joy for the Sisters of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the confreres of Blessed Claude de la Colombiere to see their efforts shared by religious of the various orders and congregations, by secular priests of every rank and even by the simple faithful."

DEVOTION TO THE SOULS IN PURGATORY AND THE DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART

Among the devotions which should form a crown of honor around the Sacred Heart, St. Margaret Mary gives a privileged place to devotion to the Souls in Purgatory. She herself had an extraordinary devotion to these Souls and called them her good suffering friends. The revelations which she received about the sufferings of these Souls, about our Divine Lord's tender love for them and His eager desire for their deliverance, of the great efficacy of the devotion to the Sacred Heart for their early release, and the fact that St. Margaret Mary, the apostle of the public devotion to the Sacred Heart, combined these two devotions so intimately in her own person, indicate that there is such a close connection between the two devotions that the devotion to the Souls in Purgatory may be said to form a part of the devotion to the Sacred Heart. Her extraordinary compassion for these suffering Souls may be said to be a share of the compassion of the Divine Heart for them; she called the devotion to the Sacred Heart the sovereign remedy for their relief.

It is a remarkable fact that our Divine Lord demanded of the two pioneers of the public devotion to His Sacred Heart an act of consecration of themselves to It, and a total donation in favor of the Souls in Purgatory of all the satisfactory merits of their lives and of all the prayers, Masses and good works offered for them after their death, and that they were the first to make this heroic offering.

St. Margaret Mary was in constant communication with the Souls in Purgatory; our Divine Lord allowed many privileged Souls among them to visit her, to tell her of their great sufferings and what it was that caused them, and to appear to her in glory after their deliverance. Towards the end of her life this became known outside the convent and people came to inquire from her about their deceased friends. While she usually declined to give any reply at the time of the inquiry, later on she sometimes declared that such a person was now in Heaven and exhorted the relatives of others to continue their prayers.

MARVELOUS EFFICACY OF THE DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART TO SUCCOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

"Would that people knew," writes St. Margaret Mary, "with what eagerness the poor Souls in Purgatory ask for this new remedy which is so powerful to relieve their sufferings. They call the Devotion to the Sacred Heart the 'Sovereign remedy,' and ask particularly for Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

ST. MARGARET MARY RECOMMENDS NOVENAS IN HONOR OF THE SACRED HEART FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

Writing to Mother de Saumaise she says: "There is a Soul in Purgatory that I cannot comfort as much as I desire. She told me to apply to you and ask you to have three Masses said for her, and, in addition, to offer your Rosary and all the practices of our holy rule for nine days, and a general Communion. She said that these things would greatly alleviate her pains and that she would not be ungrateful."

ST. MARGARET MARY WAS ACCUSTOMED TO OFFER HER PRAYERS TO OUR BLESSED LADY THROUGH THE SOULS IN PURGATORY, AND IN A LETTER TO MOTHER GREFIÉ SHE EXPLAINS THE REASON:

"It is not through any want of confidence in Our Blessed Lady that we ask the help of the Holy Souls in Purgatory; it is in order that they may join their supplications to ours and offer them up to this Good Mother to obtain for us the continuation of her maternal assistance. By doing so we confess that, after God, it is from the Blessed Virgin that all good comes to us."

Of all the practices for the relief of the Holy Souls, the most efficacious is that which is called "the Heroic Act of Charity," which, as already stated, both St. Margaret Mary and Blessed Claude de la Colombiere made at our Divine Lord's request. It consists in offering up in favor of the Souls in Purgatory all our satisfactory merits and all the indulgences we can gain during our lives, and all the prayers, Masses and good works offered for us after our death, thus reserving nothing for ourselves and trusting completely in the mercy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. St. Margaret Mary makes reference to it in several of her letters.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SOULS

O Divine Heart of Jesus, grant I pray Thee, eternal rest to the Souls in Purgatory, the final grace to those who are about to die this day, true repentance to sinners, the light of faith to pagans, and Thy blessing to me and to all who are dear to me. To Thee, therefore, O Most Merciful Heart of Jesus, I commend all these souls, and in their behalf I offer unto Thee all Thy merits in union with the merits of Thy Most Blessed Mother and of all the Angels and Saints, together with all the Masses, Communions, prayers and good works which are this day being offered throughout Christendom.

O Most Holy Heart of Jesus, shower Thy blessings in abundant measure upon the Thy Holy Church, upon the Supreme Pontiff and upon all the clergy; to the just grant perseverance; convert sinners; enlighten unbelievers; bless our relations, friends and benefactors; assist the dying; deliver the Holy Souls in Purgatory; and extend over all hearts the sweet empire of Thy love. Amen.



Jesus Wants the Veneration of His Image as The Divine Mercy

On February 22, 1931 Jesus appeared to St. Faustina with rays radiating from His heart and said,

"Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: JESUS I TRUST IN YOU. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and throughout the world." (Diary 47)

"The two rays denote Blood and Water. the pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him." (Diary 299)

“By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works.” (Diary 742)

“I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I myself will defend it as My own glory.” (Diary 48)

“I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: “Jesus, I Trust in You.” (Diary 327)

The Divine Mercy Promises:

1. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death.

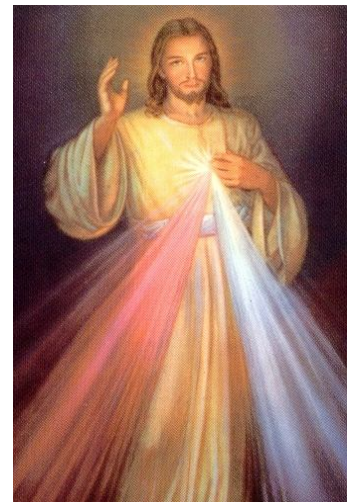
2. When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the Merciful Savior.

3. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation.

4. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this Chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy.

5. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy.

6. Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will.



How to pray the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy (Prayed on ordinary rosary beads) (Diary, 476)

Begin with the Sign of the Cross, 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and The Apostles Creed

The Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

On the Large Bead before Each Decade:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Concluding Doxology: (after five decades)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (Three times)

THE CHAPLET TO THE DIVINE MERCY

(The DIARY of Saint sister Faustina) VILNIUS, Lithuania

"September 13, 1935.

In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw an Angel, the executor of divine wrath.

He was clothed in a dazzling robe, his face gloriously bright, a cloud beneath his feet. From the cloud, bolts of thunder and flashes of lightning were springing into his hands; and from his hand they were going forth, and only then were they striking the earth. When I saw this sign of divine wrath which was about to strike the earth, and in particular a certain place, which for good reasons I cannot name, I began to implore the Angel to hold off for a few moments, and the world would do penance. But my plea was a mere nothing in the face of the divine anger.

At that very moment I felt in my soul the power of Jesus' grace, which dwells in my soul. When I became conscious of this grace, I was instantly snatched up before the Throne of God.

I found myself pleading with God for the world with words heard interiorly. As I was praying in this manner, I saw the Angel's helplessness: he could not carry out the just punishment which was rightly due for sins. Never before had I prayed with such inner power as I did then. The words with which I entreated God are these: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us.

The next morning, when I entered chapel, I heard these words interiorly:
Every time
you enter the chapel, immediately recite the prayer which I taught you yesterday.

When I had said the prayer, in my soul I heard these words: This prayer will serve to appease My wrath. You will recite it for nine days, on the beads of the rosary, in the following manner: First of all, you will say one OUR FATHER and HAIL MARY and the I BELIEVE IN GOD. Then on the OUR FATHER beads you will say the following words: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. On the HAIL MARY beads you will say the following words: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. In conclusion, three times you will recite these words: Holy God, Holy Mighty

One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world" (Diary, 474-476).



The house of Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy where Saint Faustina stayed in the years 1933-1936. In this house Lord Jesus dictated her the Chaplet to the Divine Mercy. Vilnius (Lithuania), 29 Grybo St.

"Oh, what great graces I will grant to souls who say this chaplet (...) Write down these words, My daughter. Speak to the world about My mercy; let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice. While there is still time, let them have recourse to the fount of My mercy; let them profit from the Blood and Water which gushed forth for them" (Diary, 848) .

"Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it, they will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy" (Diary, 687).

THE PROMISE OF THE GRACE OF MERCY FOR THE DYING

"It pleases Me to grant everything souls ask of Me by saying the chaplet. When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one. Write this for the benefit of distressed souls; when a soul sees and realizes the gravity of its sins, when the whole abyss of the misery into which it immersed itself is displayed before its eyes, let it not despair, but with trust let it throw itself into the arms of My mercy, as a child into the arms of its beloved mother (...). Tell them no soul that has

called upon My mercy has been disappointed or brought to shame. I delight particularly in a soul that has placed its trust in My goodness. Write that when they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the merciful Savior"

(Diary, 1541).

"At the hour of their death, I defend every soul that will say this chaplet as I do My own glory. When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated and his unfathomable mercy envelops the soul"

(Diary, 811).

To be said on the beads of a rosary.

"At first: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

I Believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell, the third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

On the large beads (once): Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the small beads (10 times): For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.

At the end (3 times): Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world" (Diary, 476).

Lord Jesus to said of Saint Faustina: "I desire that this mercy flow out upon the whole world through your heart. Let no one who approaches you go away without that trust in My mercy, which I so ardently desire for souls. Pray as much as you can for the dying. By your entreaties, obtain for them trust in My mercy, because they have most need of trust, and have it the least" (Diary, 1777).

"My daughter, help Me to save a certain dying sinner. Say the chaplet that I have taught you for him. When I began to say the chaplet, I saw the man dying in the midst of terrible torment and struggle. His Guardian Angel was defending him, but he was, as it were, powerless against the enormity of the soul's misery (...). But while I was saying the chaplet, I saw Jesus just as He is depicted in the image. The rays that issued from Jesus' Heart enveloped the sick man, and the powers of darkness fled in panic. The sick man peacefully breathed his last" (Diary, 1565).

"I often communicate with persons who are dying and obtain the divine mercy for them. Oh, how great is the goodness of God, greater than we can understand. There are moments and there are mysteries of the divine mercy over which the heavens are astounded. Let our judgment of souls cease, for God's mercy upon them is extraordinary" (Diary, 1684).

"God's mercy sometimes touches the sinner at the last moment in a wondrous and mysterious way. Outwardly, it seems as if everything were lost, but it is not so. The soul, illumined by a ray of God's powerful final grace, turns to God in the last moment with such a power of love that, in an instant, it receives from God absolution of sins and remission of punishment, while outwardly it shows no sign either of repentance or of contrition, because souls [at that stage] no longer react to external things. Oh, how beyond comprehension is God's mercy! But - horror! - There are also souls who voluntarily and consciously reject and scorn this grace! Although a person is at the point of death, the merciful God gives the soul that interior vivid moment, so that if the soul is willing, it has the possibility of returning to God. But sometimes, the obduracy in souls is so great that consciously they choose hell; they [thus] make useless all the prayers that other souls offer to God for them and even the efforts of God Himself..." (Diary, 1698).

"Contact with the dying. They ask me for prayer, and I can pray, as the Lord grants me an extraordinary spirit of prayer. I am constantly united with Him, and I am fully aware that I live for souls in order to bring them to Your mercy, O Lord. In this matter, no sacrifice is too insignificant" (Diary, 971).

"...The Lord gave me to know how much He desires a soul to distinguish itself by deeds of love. And in spirit I saw how many souls are calling out to us, "Give us God." And the blood of the Apostles boiled up within me. I will not be stingy with it; I will shed it all to the last drop for immortal souls. Although perhaps God will not demand that in the physical sense, in spirit it is possible and no less meritorious" (Diary, 1249).

"I desire to go throughout the whole word and speak to souls about the great mercy of God. PRIESTS, HELP ME IN THIS..." (Diary, 491).

"Tell My priests that hardened sinners will repent on hearing thier words when they speak about My unfathomable mercy, about the compassion I have for them in My Heart. To priests who proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts of those to whom they speak" (Diary, 1521).

"My daughter, look into the abyss of My mercy and give praise and glory to this mercy of Mine. Do it in this way: Gather all sinners from the entire world and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy" (Diary, 206).

"Penetrate My mysteries, and you will know the abyss of My mercy towards creatures and My unfathomable goodness - and this you shall make known to the world. Through your prayers, you shall mediate between heaven and earth" (Diary, 438).

"YOU WILL PREPARE THE WORLD FOR MY FINAL COMING" (DIARY, 429).

"My kingdom on earth
is My life in the human soul" (Diary, 1784).

Saint sister Faustina: "When I immersed myself in prayer and united myself with all the Masses that were being celebrated all over the world at that time, I implored God, for the sake of all these Holy Masses, to have mercy on the world and especially on poor sinners who were dying at that moment. At the same instant, I received an interior answer from God that a thousand souls had received grace through the prayerful mediation I had offered to God. We do not know the number of souls that is ours to save through our prayers and sacrifices; therefore, let us always pray for sinners" (Diary, 1783).

"Oh, how much we should pray for the dying! Let us take advantage of mercy while there is still time for mercy" (Diary, 1035).

"O life so dull and monotonous, how many treasures you contain! When look at everything with the eyes of faith, no two hours are alike, and the dullness and monotony disappear. The grace which is given me in this hour will not be repeated in the next. It may be given me again, but it will not be the same

grace. Time goes on, never to return again. Whatever is enclosed in it will never change; it seals with a seal for eternity" (Diary, 62).

Holy Face Devotion

Become a "Defender of the Holy Name of God"



Have you heard about the Devotion of Reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus? It is a devotion that was given by Our Lord to a Carmelite nun, Sister Mary of St. Peter, in France, in 1844, to make reparation for the many sins which offend God the most in modern times.

Why should we practice this devotion?

1. Our Lord told Sr. Mary of St. Peter that He wanted this devotion established in every diocese of the world.
2. Jesus gave Sister Mary of St. Peter many wonderful promises for those who would practice it.
3. He directed the Pope to establish it by Papal Bull so that it would never perish. This was done by Pope Leo XIII in 1885.
4. God performed miracles for thirty years before the picture of the suffering Face of Jesus to attest to the truth of the revelations made to Sister Mary of St. Peter.
5. Our Lord said to Sister Mary, "Rejoice, My daughter, because the hour approaches when the most beautiful work under the sun will be born."

This devotion was universally practiced before World War I, but has since declined.

This was the favorite devotion of St. Theresa of Lisieux, so much so that she chose for her religious name "St Theresa of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face". She said that the suffering, wounded Face of her dear Jesus was the foundation of all her piety.

Every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation those members of our Chapel who are able to, and wish to stay until about 12:30pm, join together in the Chapel, in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and recite the prayers of reparation to the Holy Face of



Jesus - length about eight minutes. These prayers primarily consist of the "Golden Arrow" and "Litany of the Holy Face of Jesus" prayers.

In addition, once per year on the principle Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus, Shrove Tuesday, Mass is also offered in our Chapel in honor of the Holy Face, and the Litany of the Holy Face of Jesus is recited after Mass.



The Holy Rosary



The following are some excerpts taken from the book entitled "The Secret of the Rosary" by St. Louis Marie De Montfort. Hopefully they will help our readers to understand the power and importance of reciting the Rosary faithfully every day.

There was a certain pious but self-willed lady who lived in Rome during the time of Saint Dominic. She was so devout and so fervent that she put to shame by her holy life even the strictest religious in the Church.

Having decided to ask Saint Dominic's advice about her spiritual life, she asked him to hear her confession. For her penance, he gave her one whole Rosary to say, and advised her to say it every day. She said that she had no time to say it, excusing herself on the grounds that she made the Stations of Rome every day, that she wore sack-cloth and also a hair shirt, that she gave herself the discipline several times a week, that she carried out so many other penances and fasted so much. Saint Dominic urged her over and over again to take his advice and say the Rosary, but she would not hear of it. She left the confessional horrified at the tactics of this new spiritual director who had tried so hard to persuade her to take on a devotion that was not at all to her liking.

Later on when she was in prayer, she fell into ecstasy and had a vision of her soul appearing before Our Lord's Judgment Seat. Saint Michael put all her penances and other prayers onto one balance of the scales, and all her sins and imperfections onto the other. The tray of her good works was greatly outweighed by that of her sins and imperfections.

Filled with terror, she cried for mercy, imploring the help of the Blessed Virgin, her glorious Advocate, who took the one and only Rosary that she had said for her penance and dropped it onto the tray of her good works. The one Rosary was so heavy that it weighed more than all her sins as well as all her good works. Our Lady then reproved her for having refused to follow the counsel of Her servant Dominic, and for not saying the Rosary every day.

As soon as she came to herself, she rushed and threw herself at the feet of Saint Dominic and told him all that had happened, begged his forgiveness for her unbelief, and promised to say the Rosary faithfully every day. By this means, she rose to Christian perfection, and finally to the glory of everlasting life.

* * *

In 1460, Blessed Alan de la Roche received a special warning from Our Lord. This is how he received His urgent message, as he tells it himself:

One day when he was saying Mass, Our Lord, who wished to spur him on to preach the Holy Rosary, spoke to him in the Sacred Host: "How can you crucify Me again so soon?" Jesus said. "What did you say, Lord?" asked Blessed Alan, horrified. "You crucified Me once before by your sins," answered Jesus, "and I would willingly be crucified again rather than have My Father offended by the sins you used to commit. You are crucifying Me again now because you have all the learning and understanding that you need to preach My Mother's Rosary, and you are not doing so. If you only did this, you could teach many souls the right path and lead them away from sin — but you are not doing it, and so you yourself are guilty of the sins that they commit."

This terrible reproach made Blessed Alan solemnly resolve to preach the Rosary unceasingly.

Alphonsus, King of Leon and Galicia, very much wanted all his servants to honor the Blessed Virgin by saying the Rosary. So he used to hang a large Rosary on his belt and always wore it, but unfortunately never said it himself. Nevertheless his wearing it encouraged his courtiers to say the Rosary very devoutly.

One day, the King fell seriously ill, and when he was given up for dead, he found himself, in a vision, before the judgment seat of Our Lord. Many devils were there accusing him of all the sins he had committed, and Our Lord, as Sovereign Judge, was just about to condemn him to hell when Our Lady appeared to intercede for him. She called for a pair of scales, and had his sins placed in one of the balances whereas She put the Rosary that he had always worn on the other scale, together with all the Rosaries that had been said because of his example. It was found that the Rosaries weighed more than his sins.

Looking at him with great kindness, Our Lady said: "As a reward for this little honor that you paid Me in wearing My Rosary, I have obtained a great grace for you from My Son. Your life will be spared for a few more years. See that you spend these years wisely, and do penance."

When the King regained consciousness, he cried out: "Blessed by the Rosary of the Most Holy Virgin Mary by which I have been delivered from eternal damnation!"

After he had recovered his health, he spent the rest of his life in spreading devotion to the Holy Rosary, and said it faithfully every day.

* * *

One day, Saint Gertrude had a vision of Our Lord counting gold coins. She summoned the courage to ask Him what He was doing. He answered: "I am counting the Hail Mary's that you have said; this is the money with which you can pay your way to Heaven."

* * *

Blessed Alan de la Roche says that a nun who had always had a great devotion to the Holy Rosary appeared after death to one of her sisters in religion, and said to her: "If I were allowed to go back into my body to have the chance of saying just one single Hail Mary — even if I said it quickly and without great fervor — I would gladly go through the suffering that I had during my last illness all over again in order to gain the merit of this prayer." This is all the more compelling because she had been bedridden and had suffered agonizing pains for several years before she died.

* * *

Our Lady once said to Blessed Alan de la Roche in a vision: "When people say one-hundred and fifty Angelic Salutations, this prayer is very helpful to them and is a very pleasing tribute to Me. But they will do better still and will please Me even more if they say these salutations while meditating on the life, death, and passion of Jesus Christ — for this meditation is the soul of this prayer."

For, in reality, the Rosary said without meditating on the sacred mysteries of our salvation would be almost like a body without a soul: excellent matter but without the form which is meditation — this latter being that which sets it apart from all other devotions.

Our Lady also revealed to Blessed Alan that no sooner had Saint Dominic begun preaching the Rosary than hardened sinners were touched and wept bitterly over their grievous sins. Young children performed incredible penances, and everywhere that he preached the Holy Rosary, such fervor arose that sinners changed their lives and edified everyone by their penances and change of heart.

Blessed Albert the Great learned in a revelation that by simply thinking of, or meditating on, the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, a Christian gains

more merit than if he had fasted on bread and water every Friday for a whole year, or had beaten himself with his discipline once a week until the blood flowed, or had recited the whole Book of Psalms every day. If this is so, then how great must be the merit that we can gain by the Holy Rosary which commemorates the whole life and passion of Our Savior!

One day, Our Lady revealed to Blessed Alan that, after the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which is the most important as well as the living memorial of Our Blessed Lord's passion, there could not possibly be a finer devotion nor one of greater merit than that of the Holy Rosary, which is like a second memorial and representation of the life and passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

* * *

When Saint Dominic was preaching the Rosary near Carcassone, an Albigensian was brought to him who was possessed by the devil. Saint Dominic exorcised him in the presence of a great crowd of people; it appears that over twelve thousand had come to hear him preach.

During the exorcism, the demon was forced to speak the following about devotion to the Mother of God: "Listen well, you Christians: the Mother of Jesus Christ is all-powerful, and She can save Her servants from falling into hell. She is the Sun which destroys the darkness of our wiles. It is She who uncovers our hidden plots, breaks our snares, and makes our temptations useless and ineffectual.

"We have to say, however reluctantly, that not a single soul who has really persevered in Her service has ever been damned with us; one single sigh that She offers to the Blessed Trinity is worth far more than all the prayers, desires, and aspirations of all the saints.

"We fear Her more than all the other saints in Heaven together, and we have no success with Her faithful servants. Many Christians who call upon Her when they are in the hour of death, and who really ought to be damned according to our ordinary standards, are saved by Her intercession.

"Oh, if only that Mary (it is thus in their fury that they called Her) had not pitted Her strength against ours and had not upset our plans, we should have conquered the Church and should have destroyed it long before this, and we would have seen to it that all of the Orders in the Church fell into error and disorder.

"Now that we are forced to speak, we must also tell you this: nobody who perseveres in saying the Rosary will be damned, because She obtains for Her

servants the grace of true contrition for their sins, and by means of this they obtain God's forgiveness and mercy."

From John Paul II's Message for World Youth Day 2003:

"Dear young people, do not be ashamed to recite the Rosary alone, while you walk along the streets to school, to the university or to work, or as you commute by public transport. Adopt the habit of reciting it among yourselves, in your groups, movements and associations. Do not hesitate to suggest that it be recited at home by your parents and brothers and sisters, because it rekindles and strengthens the bonds between family members. This prayer will help you to be strong in your faith, constant in charity, joyful and persevering in hope."

15 Promises of the Rosary

The Fifteen Promises of Mary to Christians Who Recite the Rosary (Given to St. Dominic and Blessed Alan)

- Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.
- I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
- The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
- It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
- The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish.
- Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.
- Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
- Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
- I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.

- The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
- You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.
- All those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
- I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
- All who recite the Rosary are my sons, and brothers of my only Son Jesus Christ.
- Devotion of my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

Methods for Saying the Rosary – by St Louis de Montfort
to draw into our souls the Graces of the Mysteries of the Life, Passion
and Glory of Jesus and Mary

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First Method

1. Say the "Come Holy Spirit" and then make this offering of the Rosary: I unite with all the saints in heaven and with all the just on earth; I unite with you, my Jesus, to praise your holy Mother worthily and to praise you in her and by her. I renounce all the distractions that may come to me while I am saying this Rosary. O Blessed Virgin Mary, we offer you this creed to honour the faith you had upon earth and to ask you to permit us to share in that same faith. O Lord, we offer you this Our Father to adore you in your oneness and to acknowledge you as the first cause and the last end of all things. Most Holy Trinity, we offer you these three Hail Marys to thank you for all the graces which you have given to Mary and which you have given to us through her intercession.

Our Father, three Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father....

Offering of the Decades

Joyful Mysteries

2. First decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this first decade in honour of your Incarnation. Through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for humility of heart.

Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.

May the grace of the mystery of the Incarnation come into me and make me truly humble.

Second decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this second decade in honour of the Visitation of your holy Mother to her cousin Saint Elizabeth. Through this mystery and the intercession of Mary we ask for a perfect love of our neighbour.

Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.

May the grace of the mystery of the Visitation come into me and make me truly charitable.

Third decade

We offer you, Child Jesus, this third decade in honour of your holy Birth. Through this mystery and the intercession of your blessed Mother we ask for detachment from the things of this world, love of poverty and love of the poor.

Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.

May the grace of the Birth of Jesus come into me and make me truly poor in spirit.

Fourth decade

We offer you, O Lord Jesus, this fourth decade in honour of your presentation in the temple by the hands of Mary. Through this mystery and the intercession of your blessed Mother we ask for the gift of wisdom and purity of heart and body.

Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.

May the grace of the mystery of the presentation come into me and make me truly wise and pure.

Fifth decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this fifth decade to honour Mary's finding you in the temple among the learned men after she had lost you. Through this mystery and the intercession of your blessed Mother we ask you to convert us and all sinners, heretics, schismatics and pagans.

Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.

May the grace of the mystery of the Finding of Jesus in the temple come into me that I may be truly converted.

Sorrowful Mysteries

3. Sixth decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this sixth decade in honour of your intense agony in the garden of Olives. Through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for perfect sorrow for our sins and perfect conformity to

your holy will.

Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.

May the grace of the Agony of Jesus come into me and make me truly contrite and perfectly obedient to the will of God.

Seventh decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this seventh decade in honour of your cruel Scourging. Through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for the grace to mortify our senses.

Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.

May the grace of the Scourging of Jesus come into me and make me truly mortified.

Eighth decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this eighth decade in honour of being crowned with Thorns. Through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for a deep contempt of the world.

Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.

May the grace of the mystery of Our Lord's Crowning with Thorns come into me and make me truly opposed to the world.

Ninth decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this ninth decade in honour of your carrying the Cross. Through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for great patience in carrying our cross after you all the days of our life.

Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.

May the grace of the mystery of the carrying of the Cross come into me and make me truly patient.

Tenth decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this tenth decade in honour of your Crucifixion on Mount Calvary. Through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for a great horror of sin, a love for the Cross and the grace of a holy death for us and for those who are now in their last agony. Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.

May the grace of the Death and Passion of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ come into me and make me truly holy.

Glorious Mysteries

4. Eleventh decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this eleventh decade in honour of your triumphant Resurrection. Through this mystery and through the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for a lively faith.

Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.
May the grace of the Resurrection come into me and make me truly faithful.

Twelfth decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this twelfth decade in honour of your glorious Ascension. Through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for a firm hope and a great longing for heaven.
Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.
May the grace of the mystery of the Ascension of Our Lord come into me and prepare me for heaven.

Thirteenth decade

We offer you, O Holy Spirit, this thirteenth decade in honour of the mystery of Pentecost. Through this mystery and the intercession of Mary, your most holy spouse, we ask for your holy wisdom that we may know, taste and practice your truth and share it with everyone.
Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.
May the grace of Pentecost come into me and make me truly wise in the eyes of God.

Fourteenth decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this fourteenth decade in honour of the Immaculate Conception of your holy Mother and her assumption into heaven body and soul. Through these two mysteries and her intercession we ask for the gift of true devotion to her in order to live a good life and have a happy death.
Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.
May the grace of the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of Mary come into me and make me truly devoted to her.

Fifteenth decade

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this fifteenth and last decade in honour of the Crowning in glory of your holy Mother in heaven. Through this mystery and her intercession we ask for perseverance and an increase in virtue up to the moment of our death and thereafter the eternal crown that is prepared for us. We ask for the same grace for all the just and all our benefactors.
Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be to the Father.
5.We beseech you, Lord Jesus, by the fifteen mysteries of your life, death, passion and glory, and the merits of your holy Mother, to convert sinners, to help the dying, to free the souls in purgatory, and to give all of us your grace so that we may live well and die well. We pray also for the light of glory to see you face to face and love you during all eternity. Amen.

Second, Shorter Method...

...of Celebrating the life, death and heavenly glory of Jesus and Mary in the Holy Rosary and a method of restraining our imagination and lessening distractions.

6. To do this a word or two is added to each Hail Mary of the decade reminding us of the mystery we are celebrating. This addition follows the name of Jesus in the middle of the Hail Mary:
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,

Decade
1st "Jesus becoming man"
2nd "Jesus sanctifying"
3rd "Jesus born in poverty"
4th "Jesus sacrificed"
5th "Jesus holy of holies"
6th "Jesus in his agony"
7th "Jesus scourged"
8th "Jesus crowned with thorns"
9th "Jesus carrying his Cross"
10th "Jesus crucified"
11th "Jesus risen from the dead"
12th "Jesus ascending to heaven"
13th "Jesus filling thee with the Holy Spirit"
14th "Jesus raising thee up"
15th "Jesus crowning thee"

At the end of the first five mysteries we say:
May the grace of the joyful mysteries come into our souls and make us really holy.

At the end of the second:
May the grace of the sorrowful mysteries come into our souls and make us truly patient.

At the end of the third:
May the grace of the glorious mysteries come into our souls and make us eternally happy. Amen.

Third Method...

...of Fr. de Montfort for saying fruitfully the holy Rosary, for the use of the Daughters of Wisdom.

7. I unite with all the saints in heaven, with all the just on earth, and with all the faithful here present. I unite with you, my Jesus, in order to praise your holy Mother worthily and to praise you in her and through her. I renounce all distractions which may arise during this Rosary. I desire to say it with attention and devotion as if it were the last of my life. Amen. We offer you, Lord Jesus, this Creed in honour of all the mysteries of our faith, the Our Father and three Hail Marys in honour of the unity of your being and

the Trinity of your persons. We ask of you a lively faith, a firm hope and an ardent charity. Amen.

I believe in God; Our Father; three Hail Marys.

In each mystery, after the word Jesus, add a word to recall and honour the particular mystery. For example: Jesus incarnate, Jesus sanctifying, etc. as it is indicated at each decade.

The Joyful Mysteries

The Incarnation

8.We offer you, Lord Jesus, this first decade in honour of your Incarnation in Mary's womb; through this mystery and her intercession we ask for deep humility. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary ten times, adding "Jesus becoming man".

May the grace of the mystery of the Incarnation come into our souls. Amen.

The Visitation

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this second decade in honour of the Visitation of your holy Mother to her cousin Saint Elizabeth and of the sanctification of Saint John the Baptist; through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for charity towards our neighbour. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus sanctifying".

May the grace of the Visitation come into our souls. Amen.

The Birth of Jesus

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this third decade in honour of your Birth in the stable at Bethlehem; through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother, we ask for detachment from worldly things, contempt of riches and a love of poverty. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus being born".

May the grace of the mystery of the Birth of Jesus come into our souls. Amen.

The Presentation in the Temple

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this fourth decade in honour of your presentation in the temple and the purification of Mary; through this mystery and her intercession we ask for purity in body and mind. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus sacrificed".

May the grace of the mystery of the Presentation come into our souls. Amen.

The Finding of Jesus

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this fifth decade in honour of your being found in the temple by Mary; through this mystery and her intercession we ask for

true wisdom. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus Holy of holies".

May the grace of the mystery of the Finding of Jesus come into our souls.
Amen.

At the end of this first Rosary the Magnificat is said.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony

9.We offer you, Lord Jesus, this sixth decade in honour of your Agony in the Garden of Olives; through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for sorrow for our sins. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus in Agony".

May the grace of the mystery of the Agony of Jesus come into our souls.
Amen.

The Scourging

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this seventh decade in honour of your cruel Scourging; through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for the grace to mortify our senses. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus being scourged".

May the grace of the mystery of the Scourging of Jesus come into our souls.
Amen.

The Crowning with Thorns

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this eighth decade in honour of your being Crowned with Thorns; through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for contempt of the world. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus crowned with thorns".

May the grace of the mystery of the Crowning with Thorns come into our souls. Amen.

The Carrying of the Cross

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this ninth decade in honour of your carrying the Cross; through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for patience in all our crosses. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus carrying his Cross".

May the grace of the mystery of the Carrying of the Cross come into our souls. Amen.

The Crucifixion

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this tenth decade in honour of your Crucifixion and shameful Death on Calvary; through this mystery and the intercession

of your holy Mother we ask for the conversion of sinners, perseverance for the just and relief for the souls in Purgatory. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus crucified".

10.In this decade before each Hail Mary we ask God through the intercession of the nine choirs of angels for the graces we stand in need of.

Holy Seraphim, ask God etc. Hail Mary etc.

Holy Cherubim, ask etc.

Holy Thrones, ask etc.

Holy Dominations, ask etc.

Holy Virtues, ask etc.

Holy Powers, ask etc.

Holy Principalities, ask etc.

Holy Archangels, ask etc.

Holy Angels, ask etc.

All the Saints of Paradise, ask etc.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

May the grace of the mystery of the Crucifixion of Jesus come down into our souls. Amen.

11.At the end of the second rosary the following prayers are said kneeling:

[Prayer composed by Fr. de Montfort asking God for divine Wisdom]

O God of our fathers, Lord of mercy, Spirit of truth, I, a mere worm of the earth, prostrate before your divine Majesty, acknowledging the great need I have of your divine wisdom which I have lost through my sins and trusting in the unfailing promise you have made to all those who ask with confidence, I come before you today to beg this grace of you with all possible earnestness and the greatest humility. Send us, O Lord, this wisdom which sits by your throne to strengthen our weakness, to enlighten our minds, to inflame our hearts, to speak and to act, to work and suffer in union with you, to direct our footsteps and to fill our souls with the virtues of Jesus Christ and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, for only Wisdom can bring us these gifts. O Father of mercy, God of all consolation, we ask you for this infinite treasure of your divine wisdom, through the tender heart of Mary, through the Precious Blood of your dear Son and through the intense desire you have to bestow your gifts on your poor creatures. Hear and grant our prayers. Amen.

12.[Prayer to Saint Joseph]

Hail Joseph the just, Wisdom is with you; blessed are you among all men and blessed is Jesus, the fruit of Mary, your faithful spouse. Holy Joseph, worthy foster-father of Jesus Christ, pray for us sinners and obtain divine Wisdom for us from God, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

This prayer is said three times.

The Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection

13. We offer you, Lord Jesus, this eleventh decade in honour of your glorious Resurrection; through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother, we ask for love of God and fervour in your service. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus risen from the dead". May the grace of the mystery of the Resurrection come into our souls. Amen.

The Ascension

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this twelfth decade in honour of your triumphant Ascension; through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask for an ardent desire for heaven, our true home. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus ascending to heaven". May the grace of the mystery of the Ascension come into our souls. Amen.

The Pentecost

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this thirteenth decade in honour of the mystery of Pentecost; through this mystery and the intercession of your holy Mother we ask that the Holy Spirit may come into our souls. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus filling us with the Holy Spirit". May the grace of the mystery of Pentecost come into our souls. Amen.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this fourteenth decade in honour of the Resurrection and triumphant Assumption of your holy Mother into heaven; through this mystery and her intercession we ask for a tender devotion to so good a Mother. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus raising thee up". May the grace of the mystery of the Assumption come into our souls. Amen.

The Coronation of Mary

We offer you, Lord Jesus, this fifteenth and last decade in honour of the Coronation of your holy Mother; through this mystery and her intercession we ask for perseverance in grace and the crown of glory. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary ten times. "Jesus crowning thee".

14. In this decade before each Hail Mary we ask God through the intercession of all the saints for the graces we stand in need of. St. Michael the Archangel and all the holy angels, ask of God etc. Hail Mary etc. St. Abraham and all the holy Patriarchs, ask of God etc. St. John Baptist and all the holy Prophets, ask of God etc. St. Peter and St. Paul and all the holy Apostles, ask of God etc. St. Stephen, St. Lawrence and all the Martyrs, ask of God etc. St. Hilary and all the holy Pontiffs, ask of God etc.

St. Joseph and all the holy Confessors, ask of God etc.

St. Catherine, St. Therese and all the holy Virgins, ask of God etc.

St. Anne and all holy Women, ask of God etc.

Glory be to the Father etc.

May the grace of the mystery of the Crowning in glory of Mary come into our souls. Amen.

15.At the end of the third Rosary the following prayer is said:

[Prayer to the Blessed Virgin]

Hail Mary, well-beloved daughter of the eternal Father, admirable Mother of the Son, most faithful spouse of the Holy Spirit, glorious temple of the Blessed Trinity. Hail, sovereign Queen, to whom everyone is subject in heaven and on earth. Hail sure Refuge of sinners, our Lady of mercy, who has never repelled anyone. Sinner as I am, I cast myself at your feet and beg you to obtain from Jesus, your dear Son, contrition and pardon for all my sins and the gift of divine wisdom. I consecrate myself to you with all that I have. I choose you today as my Mother and Mistress; treat me then as the weakest of your children and the most submissive of your servants. Hear, O my Queen, the prayers of a heart that desires to love and serve you faithfully. Let it not be said that of all who have ever had recourse to you, I was the first to be unheeded. O my hope, my life, my faithful and immaculate Virgin Mary, hear me, protect me, strengthen me, instruct me, save me. Amen.

Praised, adored and loved be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar. Forever and ever.

O Jesus, my dear Jesus, O Mary, Mother of Jesus, my beloved Mother, give us your holy blessing. Amen.

Support us in our troubles, hear us when we pray, preserve us from the world and the devil. Amen.

The superior says, "Nos cum prole pia benedicat Virgo Maria. Amen".

Fourth Method

Summary of the life, death and passion and heavenly glory of Jesus and Mary in the holy Rosary.

16. Credo: 1) Faith in the presence of God. 2) Faith in the gospel. 3) Faith and obedience to the pope as Vicar of Jesus Christ.

1 Our Father Unity of one, living and true God.

1 Hail Mary To honour the eternal Father who conceives his Son in contemplating himself.

2 Hail Mary The eternal Word, equal to his Father and who with him produces the Holy Spirit by their mutual love.

3 Hail Mary The Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son by the way of love.

2 Our Father Immense charity of God.

The Incarnation

- 17.** 1 Hail Mary To deplore the unhappy state of disobedient Adam; his just condemnation and that of all his descendants.
- 2 Hail Mary To honour the desires of the patriarchs and prophets who pleaded for the coming of the Messiah.
- 3 Hail Mary To honour the desires and prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary to bring forward the coming of the Messiah; and her marriage with Saint Joseph.
- 4 Hail Mary The love of the eternal Father in giving us his Son.
- 5 Hail Mary The love of the Son who gave himself up for us.
- 6 Hail Mary The mission and the greeting of the angel Gabriel.
- 7 Hail Mary The maidenly fear of Mary.
- 8 Hail Mary The faith and consent of the Virgin Mary.
- 9 Hail Mary The creation of the soul and the formation of the body of Jesus in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit.
- 10 Hail Mary The angels adoring the Word Incarnate in the womb of Mary.
- 3 Our Father The most adorable majesty of God.

The Visitation

- 18.** 1 Hail Mary To honour the joy in the heart of Mary at the Incarnation and the dwelling for nine months of the eternal Word in her womb.
- 2 Hail Mary The sacrifice of himself that Jesus Christ offered to his Father on coming into the world.
- 3 Hail Mary The contentment of Jesus Christ in the humble and Virginal womb of Mary and that of Mary in the enjoyment of her God.
- 4 Hail Mary The doubts of St. Joseph on discovering that Mary was with child.
- 5 Hail Mary The agreement between Jesus and Mary in her womb on the choice of the elect.
- 6 Hail Mary The fervour of Mary when visiting her cousin.
- 7 Hail Mary The greeting of Mary and the sanctification of St. John Baptist and of his mother St. Elizabeth.
- 8 Hail Mary Mary's thanksgiving to God expressed in her Magnificat.
- 9 Hail Mary Her charity and humility in the service of her cousin.
- 10 Hail Mary The mutual dependence of Jesus and Mary and the dependence we should have upon them both.
- 4 Our Father The infinite richness of God.

The Birth of Jesus

- 19.** 1 Hail Mary To honour the contempt and the rebuffs which Mary and Joseph encountered at Bethlehem.
- 2 Hail Mary The poverty of the Stable where God came into the world.
- 3 Hail Mary The deep recollection of the exceeding love of Mary when she was about to give birth to her child.
- 4 Hail Mary The coming forth of the eternal Word from the womb of Mary without breaking the seal of her Virginity.
- 5 Hail Mary The adoration and the singing of the angels when Jesus was born.
- 6 Hail Mary The ravishing beauty of her divine child.
- 7 Hail Mary The coming of the shepherds into the stable with their humble gifts.
- 8 Hail Mary The circumcision of Jesus and his suffering accepted in love.
- 9 Hail Mary The giving of the name of Jesus and the nobility of this name
- 10 Hail Mary The adoration of the kings and the gifts they brought.
- 5 Our Father The eternal wisdom of God.

The Purification

- 20.** 1 Hail Mary Obedience of Jesus and Mary to the Law.
- 2 Hail Mary The sacrifice that Jesus made of his humanity to the Law.
- 3 Hail Mary The sacrifice of her honour the Virgin Mary made to the Law.
- 4 Hail Mary The joy and the songs of Simeon and Anne the prophetess.
- 5 Hail Mary The ransoming of Jesus by the offering of two turtle doves.
- 6 Hail Mary The massacre of the Holy Innocents by Herod the Cruel.
- 7 Hail Mary The flight of Jesus to Egypt through St. Joseph's obedience to the voice of the angel.
- 8 Hail Mary The mystery of his abode in Egypt.
- 9 Hail Mary His return to Nazareth
- 10 Hail Mary His growth in age and wisdom.
- 6 Our Father The incomprehensible holiness of God.

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

- 21.** 1 Hail Mary To honour his hidden, hard working and obedient life at Nazareth.
- 2 Hail Mary His preaching and his being found in the temple among the doctors.

- 3 Hail Mary His fasting and his temptations in the desert.
- 4 Hail Mary His baptism by St. John Baptist.
- 5 Hail Mary His wonderful preaching.
- 6 Hail Mary His astounding miracles.
- 7 Hail Mary The choice of the twelve apostles and the powers he gave them.
- 8 Hail Mary His marvellous transfiguration
- 9 Hail Mary The washing of the feet of the apostles.
- 10 Hail Mary The institution of the Holy Eucharist.
- 7 Our Father The essential happiness of God.

The Agony of Jesus

- 22.**
- 1 Hail Mary To honour the places of retreat that Jesus Christ chose during his life, especially that of the Garden of Olives.
 - 2 Hail Mary His humble and fervent prayers offered during his life and on the eve of his passion.
 - 3 Hail Mary His patience and gentleness towards his apostles during his life and especially in the Garden of Olives.
 - 4 Hail Mary His weariness of soul during all his life and especially in the Garden of Olives.
 - 5 Hail Mary The outpouring of blood in which his sorrows bathed him.
 - 6 Hail Mary The comfort he consented to receive from an angel in his agony.
 - 7 Hail Mary His conformity to the will of his Father in spite of his natural reluctance.
 - 8 Hail Mary The courage with which he went to meet his executioners and the power of his words with which he crushed them and then uplifted them.
 - 9 Hail Mary His betrayal by Judas and his arrest by the Jews.
 - 10 Hail Mary His desertion by his apostles.
 - 8 Our Father Wonderful patience of God.

The Scourging

- 23.**
- 1 Hail Mary To honour the chains and ropes with which Jesus was bound.
 - 2 Hail Mary The blow that he received in the house of Caiphas.
 - 3 Hail Mary The three denials of St. Peter.
 - 4 Hail Mary The shameful treatment he received at the house of Herod when he was dressed in a white robe.
 - 5 Hail Mary His being stripped of all his clothes.
 - 6 Hail Mary The scorn and insults he received from his tormenters because of his nakedness.

- 7 Hail Mary His being beaten and flayed with rods of thorn and cruel whips.
- 8 Hail Mary The pillar to which he was bound.
- 9 Hail Mary The blood he shed and the wounds he received.
- 10 Hail Mary His collapse through weakness into a pool of his own blood.

9 Our Father Unspeakable beauty of God.

The Crowning with Thorns of Jesus Christ

- 24. 1 Hail Mary To honour his being stripped a third time.
- 2 Hail Mary To honour His crown of thorns.
- 3 Hail Mary The veil with which they blindfolded him.
- 4 Hail Mary The blows and the spittle rained upon his face.
- 5 Hail Mary The old robe they put over his shoulders.
- 6 Hail Mary The reed they put into his hand.
- 7 Hail Mary The rough stone upon which he was made to sit.
- 8 Hail Mary The abuse and insults that were hurled at him.
- 9 Hail Mary The blood which poured from his adorable head.
- 10 Hail Mary His hair and beard which they tore at.

10 Our Father Limitless omnipotence of God.

The Carrying of the Cross

- 25. 1 Hail Mary To honour Our Lord being presented to the people at the "Ecce Homo."
- 2 Hail Mary The preferring of Barabbas to Jesus.
- 3 Hail Mary The false testimonies given against him.
- 4 Hail Mary His being condemned to death.
- 5 Hail Mary The love with which he embraced and kissed the Cross.
- 6 Hail Mary The dreadful sufferings he endured in carrying it.
- 7 Hail Mary His falling through weakness under its weight.
- 8 Hail Mary His sorrow on meeting his Mother.
- 9 Hail Mary The veil of Veronica on which his face was imprinted.
- 10 Hail Mary His tears and those of his Mother and the pious women who followed him to Calvary.

11 Our Father Fearful Justice of God.

The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

- 26. 1 Hail Mary To honour the five wounds of Jesus Christ and the shedding of his blood on the Cross.
- 2 Hail Mary His pierced heart and the Cross upon which he was crucified.
- 3 Hail Mary The nails and the lance which pierced him, the sponge, the gall and the vinegar which he was given

to drink.

- 4 Hail Mary The shame and the ignominy he endured in being crucified naked between two thieves.
- 5 Hail Mary The compassion of his Blessed Mother.
- 6 Hail Mary His seven last words.
- 7 Hail Mary His abandonment and his silence.
- 8 Hail Mary The distress of the whole universe.
- 9 Hail Mary His painful and shameful death.
- 10 Hail Mary His being taken down from the Cross and his burial.
- 12 Our Father The eternity of God without a beginning.

The Resurrection

- 27. 1 Hail Mary To honour the descent of the soul of Our Lord into hell.
- 2 Hail Mary The joy and the release of the ancient fathers who were in limbo.
- 3 Hail Mary The re-uniting of his body and soul in the tomb.
- 4 Hail Mary His miraculous emergence from the tomb.
- 5 Hail Mary His victories over death and sin, the world and the devil.
- 6 Hail Mary The four qualities of his glorious body.
- 7 Hail Mary The power that he received from his Father in heaven and on earth.
- 8 Hail Mary His appearances to his Mother, his apostles and disciples.
- 9 Hail Mary His discourses on heaven and the meal that he had with his disciples.
- 10 Hail Mary The peace, the authority and the mission he gave them to go out into the whole world.
- 13 Our Father The unlimited omnipresence of God.

The Ascension of Jesus Christ

- 28. 1 Hail Mary To honour the promise that Jesus Christ made to his apostles to send them the Holy Spirit and the command he gave them to prepare to receive him.
- 2 Hail Mary The gathering of all his disciples on the Mount of Olives.
- 3 Hail Mary The blessings he gave them as he rose from the earth towards heaven.
- 4 Hail Mary His glorious ascension by his own power into heaven.
- 5 Hail Mary The welcome and triumphant acclaim which he received from God, his Father and from all the heavenly court.
- 6 Hail Mary The triumphant power with which he opened the

- gates of heaven through which no mortal had passed.
- 7 Hail Mary His being seated at the right hand of his Father as his beloved Son equal to his Father.
- 8 Hail Mary The power he received to judge the living and the dead.
- 9 Hail Mary His last coming upon earth when his power and majesty will appear in all their magnificence.
- 10 Hail Mary The justice he will mete out at the last judgment when he rewards the just and punishes the wicked for all eternity.
- 14 Our Father The all-embracing Providence of God.

Pentecost

- 29.** 1 Hail Mary To honour the truth of God the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son and who is the love of the Godhead.
- 2 Hail Mary The sending of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles by the Father and the Son.
- 3 Hail Mary His descent accompanied by the sound of a great wind which shows his might and power.
- 4 Hail Mary The tongues of fire he sent to the apostles giving them an understanding of the scriptures and love of God and neighbour
- 5 Hail Mary The fullness of grace which the heart of Mary, his faithful spouse, was privileged to receive.
- 6 Hail Mary The marvellous guidance he gave to all the saints and even to the person of Jesus Christ during all his life.
- 7 Hail Mary The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- 8 Hail Mary The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- 9 Hail Mary To ask especially for the gift of wisdom and the coming of his kingdom into men's hearts.
- 10 Hail Mary To be victorious over the three evil spirits that are opposed to him, namely the spirit of the flesh, of the world and of the devil.
- 15 Our Father The unspeakable generosity of God.

The Assumption of Mary

- 30.** 1 Hail Mary To honour the eternal predestination of Mary to be the masterpiece of God's hands.
- 2 Hail Mary Her Immaculate Conception and her fullness of grace and reason in the very womb of St. Anne.
- 3 Hail Mary Her birth which gladdened the whole world.
- 4 Hail Mary Her presentation and her abode in the temple.
- 5 Hail Mary Her wonderful life and her exemption from all sin.
- 6 Hail Mary Her fullness of pre-eminent virtue.

- 7 Hail Mary Her fruitful virginity and her painless childbearing.
- 8 Hail Mary Her divine Motherhood and her relationship with the three persons of the most holy Trinity.
- 9 Hail Mary Her precious and loving death.
- 10 Hail Mary Her resurrection and triumphant Assumption.
- 16 Our Father The unattainable glory of God.

The Crowning of Mary

- 31.**
- 1 Hail Mary To honour the triple crown which Mary received from the Holy Trinity.
 - 2 Hail Mary The joy and the added glory that heaven received through her triumphant entry.
 - 3 Hail Mary To acknowledge her as queen of heaven and earth, of angels and men.
 - 4 Hail Mary As treasurer and dispenser of the graces of God, the merits of Jesus Christ and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 - 5 Hail Mary Mediatrix and advocate of men.
 - 6 Hail Mary Exterminator and destroyer of the devil and of heresies.
 - 7 Hail Mary Safe refuge of sinners.
 - 8 Hail Mary Nurturing Mother of sinners.
 - 9 Hail Mary The joy and delight of the just.
 - 10 Hail Mary Refuge for all the living, all-powerful relief for the afflicted, for the dying and for the souls in purgatory.

God alone.

Fifth Method:

150 Motives Impelling us to say the Rosary

- 32.** Creed: Definition and essence of the Rosary
- 1 Our Father Eminence of the Rosary
 - 1 Hail Mary the daily Rosary
 - 2 Hail Mary the ordinary Rosary
 - 3 Hail Mary perpetual Rosary
- 33.**
- 2 Our Father excellence of the holy Rosary as prefigured in the Old Testament and the parables of the New.
 - 1 Hail Mary the strength of the holy Rosary against the world, as prefigured by that small stone, which, thrown by no hand of man, fell upon the statue of Nebuchadnezzar and broke it into pieces.
 - 2 Hail Mary its strength against the devil, as prefigured by the sling of David with which he overcame Goliath.

- 3 Hail Mary its power against all sorts of enemies of salvation, as prefigured by the power of David which contained innumerable kinds of defensive and offensive arms.
- 4 Hail Mary its miracles as prefigured in the rod of Moses which caused water to flow from the rock, calmed the waters, divided the seas and performed miracles.
- 5 Hail Mary its holiness as prefigured by the Ark of the Covenant which contained the law, the manna and the rod and also by the psalter of David which prefigured the Rosary.
- 6 Hail Mary its light as shown in the columns of fire during the night and the shining cloud during the day which guided the Israelites.
- 7 Hail Mary its sweetness as shown in the honey found in the mouth of the lion.
- 8 Hail Mary its fruitfulness as shown in the net that St. Peter by order of Our Lord threw into the sea and which though filled with 153 fish did not break.
- 9 Hail Mary its marvellous fruitfulness as shown in the parable of the mustard seed which, although so small in appearance, becomes a great tree in which the birds of the air make their nests.
- 10 Hail Mary its richness as shown in the parable of the treasure hidden in a field for which a wise man must give up all he has to possess it.

34. 3 Our Father It is a gift come down from heaven; a great present that God gives to his most faithful servants.

- 1 Hail Mary God is the author of the prayers of which it is composed and of the mysteries which it contains.
- 2 Hail Mary it is the Blessed Virgin who gave the Rosary its form.
- 3 Hail Mary St. Dominic preached and although he was a saint he converted hardly any sinners.
- 4 Hail Mary he was accompanied in his missions by several holy bishops and still his efforts were without fruit.
- 5 Hail Mary by the power of prayer and mortification, he received the holy Rosary in the forest of Toulouse.
- 6 Hail Mary he entered Toulouse and preached the Rosary and great wonders and great blessings accompanied his preaching.
- 7 Hail Mary he continued all his life preaching the Rosary with results never seen before.
- 8 Hail Mary the marvellous effects the Rosary has had wherever it was preached.
- 9 Hail Mary the decline of the Rosary.

- 10 Hail Mary the restoration of the Rosary by Blessed Alan de la Roche.
- 35. 4** Our Father The Rosary is the triple crown that we place on the heads of Jesus and Mary and he who recites it every day will receive the same crown.
- 1 Hail Mary Mary possesses three kinds of crown.
- 2 Hail Mary The daily Rosary is her great crown.
- 3 Hail Mary The reprobate crown themselves with faded roses.
- 4 Hail Mary The predestinate crown Jesus and Mary with eternal roses.
- 5 Hail Mary The Jews crown Jesus with piercing crowns.
- 6 Hail Mary True Christians crown him with fragrant roses.
- 7 Hail Mary The first is the bridal crown or crown of excellence which we place on Mary's head by the joyful mysteries.
- 8 Hail Mary The second is the crown of triumph or of power that we give her by the sorrowful mysteries.
- 9 Hail Mary The third is the royal crown or crown of goodness that we give her by the glorious mysteries.
- 10 Hail Mary There are three crowns for the one who recites the Holy Rosary every day:
1 crown of graces during life
2 crown of peace at death
3 crown of glory in eternity
- 36. 5** Our Father The Rosary is a mystical summary of all the most beautiful prayers of the Church.
- 1 Hail Mary The Creed is a summary of the gospel.
- 2 Hail Mary It is the prayer of believers.
- 3 Hail Mary The shield of the soldiers of Jesus Christ.
- 4 Hail Mary The Our Father - prayer of which Jesus Christ is the sole author.
- 5 Hail Mary Prayer he used when praying to his Father and through which he obtained what he desired.
- 6 Hail Mary Prayer which contains a summary of all we must ask of God.
- 7 Hail Mary Prayer in which are found all our duties towards God.
- 8 Hail Mary Prayer which contains a summary of all we must ask of God.
- 9 Hail Mary Prayer whose value is unknown and which is said very badly by the majority of Christians.
- 10 Hail Mary Paraphrase of the Our Father.
- 37. 6** Our Father The Rosary contains the angelic greeting which is the most pleasing prayer we can offer our Blessed Lady.

- 1 Hail Mary The Hail Mary is a divine compliment which wins over the heart of the Blessed Virgin.
 - 2 Hail Mary It is the new song of the New Testament which the faithful sing as they escape from the captivity of the devil.
 - 3 Hail Mary It is the hymn of the angels and saints in heaven.
 - 4 Hail Mary It is the prayer of the predestinate and of Catholics.
 - 5 Hail Mary It is a mysterious rose which is a source of joy to the Blessed Virgin and to the soul.
 - 6 Hail Mary It is a precious stone which embellishes and sanctifies the soul.
 - 7 Hail Mary It is a valuable piece of money with which to purchase heaven.
 - 8 Hail Mary It is the prayer which distinguishes the predestinate from the reprobate.
 - 9 Hail Mary It is the terror of the devil, the blow which crushes him, the nail of Sisera which pierces his head.
 - 10 Hail Mary Paraphrase of the Hail Mary.
- 38. 7** Our Father The Rosary is a divine Summary of the mysteries of Jesus and Mary in which we proclaim and commemorate their life, passion and glory.
- 1 Hail Mary Men's misfortune and ruin come from ignorance and neglect of the mysteries of Jesus Christ.
 - 2 Hail Mary The Rosary provides the knowledge of the mysteries of Jesus and Mary and recalls them to mind in view of applying them to one's life.
 - 3 Hail Mary The greatest desire of Jesus Christ was and still is that we remember him. With this in mind he instituted the sacrifice of the Mass.
 - 4 Hail Mary After holy Mass the Rosary is the holiest action and prayer that we can offer because it is a remembrance and a celebration of what Jesus Christ has done and suffered for us.
 - 5 Hail Mary The Rosary is the prayer of the angels and saints in heaven because they are engaged in celebrating the life, death and glory of Jesus Christ.
 - 6 Hail Mary When we say the Rosary we celebrate in one day or one week all the mysteries that the Church celebrates in a year for the sanctification of her children.
 - 7 Hail Mary Those who say the holy Rosary every day have a share in what the saints are doing in heaven which is the same as they were doing upon earth meritoriously, for they who are on earth are doing what the saints are doing in heaven.

- 8 Hail Mary The mysteries of the Holy Rosary are like mirrors for the predestinate in which they see their faults and like torches which guide them in this world of darkness.
 - 9 Hail Mary They see springs of living water from the Saviour to whom one may go with joy to draw the saving waters of grace.
 - 10 Hail Mary They are the 15 steps of the temple of Solomon and the 15 rungs of the ladder of Jacob by which the angels descend to them and return to heaven and by which they ascend to heaven.
- 39. 8** Our Father The Rosary is the tree of life which bears marvellous fruits all the year round.
- 1 Hail Mary The Rosary enlightens blind and hardened sinners.
 - 2 Hail Mary It brings back obstinate heretics.
 - 3 Hail Mary It sets prisoners free.
 - 4 Hail Mary It heals the incurable.
 - 5 Hail Mary It enriches the poor.
 - 6 Hail Mary It supports the weak.
 - 7 Hail Mary It consoles the afflicted and the dying.
 - 8 Hail Mary It reforms lax religious orders.
 - 9 Hail Mary It checks the effects of God's anger.
 - 10 Hail Mary It makes good people better.
- 40. 9** Our Father The Rosary is a practice that God has sanctioned by many miracles.
- 1 Hail Mary Miracles in the conversion of sinners.
 - 2 Hail Mary In the conversion of heretics.
 - 3 Hail Mary In the cure of all sorts of diseases.
 - 4 Hail Mary In favour of the dying brethren.
 - 5 Hail Mary In the sanctification of devout people.
 - 6 Hail Mary In the release of souls from purgatory.
 - 7 Hail Mary In the reception into the Confraternity.
 - 8 Hail Mary For the procession of the holy Rosary and the oil lamp of the holy Rosary.
 - 9 Hail Mary For its devout recitation.
 - 10 Hail Mary To carry it on one's person with devotion.
- 41. 10** Our Father The holy Rosary is most excellent because it was established for very noble ends which give great glory to God and are very salutary for the soul.
- 1 Hail Mary By being enrolled in this Confraternity we are strengthened in a wonderful way by joining millions of brothers and sisters.
 - 2 Hail Mary We thus preserve a continuous remembrance of the

mysteries of Jesus and Mary.

- 3 Hail Mary We are able to praise God at every moment of the day and night and in every place on earth, which one could not do on one's own.
 - 4 Hail Mary To thank Our Lord for all the graces he is giving us at every moment.
 - 5 Hail Mary To be ever asking pardon for our daily sins.
 - 6 Hail Mary To make our prayers more powerful by being united with others.
 - 7 Hail Mary For mutual help at the hour of death which is so difficult and so important.
 - 8 Hail Mary To be supported at the hour of judgment by as many intercessors as there are members of the confraternity of the Rosary.
 - 9 Hail Mary To be given relief after death and speedily released from the pains of purgatory by the Masses and prayers which are offered up.
 - 10 Hail Mary To form an army arrayed as for battle to destroy the empire of the devil and establish that of Jesus Christ.
- 42. 11** Our Father The Rosary is a great store of indulgence accorded by popes outdoing one another.
- 1 Hail Mary Plenary indulgences of the stations of Rome and Jerusalem by going to Communion on certain days.
 - 2 Hail Mary Plenary indulgence on enrolment in the confraternity.
 - 3 Hail Mary Plenary indulgence at the hour of death.
 - 4 Hail Mary Indulgence for the recitation of the Rosary.
 - 5 Hail Mary Indulgence for those who organize the saying of the Rosary.
 - 6 Hail Mary Indulgence for those who receive communion in the church of the Rosary on the first Sunday of the month.
 - 7 Hail Mary Indulgence on the occasion of the procession.
 - 8 Hail Mary Indulgence for those who say the Mass of the Rosary.
 - 9 Hail Mary Indulgence for certain good works.
 - 10 Hail Mary Indulgence for those who are unable to visit the church of the Rosary, or receive Communion, or take part in a procession.
- 43. 12** Our Father The Rosary is sanctioned by the example given to us by the saints.
- 1 Hail Mary St. Dominic, its origination.
 - 2 Hail Mary Blessed Alan de la Roche who restored it.
 - 3 Hail Mary The saintly Dominicans who propagated it.
 - 4 Hail Mary Among the popes: Pius V, Innocent III, and Boniface

VIII who had it embroidered in satin.

- 5 Hail Mary Among the cardinals: St. Charles Borromeo.
- 6 Hail Mary Among the bishops: St. Francis de Sales.
- 7 Hail Mary Among religious: St. Ignatius, St. Philip Neri, St. Felix of Cantalice.
- 8 Hail Mary Among kings and queens: St. Louis, Philip I, King of Spain, Queen Blanche.
- 9 Hail Mary Among the learned: Albert the Great, Navarre, etc.
- 10 Hail Mary Among saintly people: the famous holy women of Rome, Sister Mary of the Incarnation.

44. 13 Our Father The vanquished enemies of the Rosary prove its fame to us.

- 1 Hail Mary Those who neglect it.
- 2 Hail Mary Those who say it with indifference and without attention.
- 3 Hail Mary Those who say it in haste and to get it over with.
- 4 Hail Mary Those who say it with unrepentant mortal sin.
- 5 Hail Mary Those who say it out of hypocrisy, lacking any devotion.
- 6 Hail Mary Critics who strive ingeniously to do away with it.
- 7 Hail Mary The impious who speak against it.
- 8 Hail Mary The cowardly who accept it and then abandon it.
- 9 Hail Mary Heretics who attack it and run it down.
- 10 Hail Mary The devils who hate it and strive to destroy it by numerous tricks.

45. 14 Our Father The overcoming of objections that heretics, critics, libertines and those who neglect and ignore the Rosary generally make either to do away with it or to avoid saying it.

- 1 Hail Mary It is a new religious practice.
- 2 Hail Mary It is an invention of Religious to make money.
- 3 Hail Mary It is a devotion of ignorant women who do not know how to read.
- 4 Hail Mary It is superstitious being based on counting prayers.
- 5 Hail Mary It is preferable to say the penitential psalms.
- 6 Hail Mary It is preferable to make a meditation.
- 7 Hail Mary It is too long and too tiresome a prayer.
- 8 Hail Mary One cannot be saved without saying the Rosary.
- 9 Hail Mary We sin if we fail to say it.
- 10 Hail Mary It is good, but I have not the time to say it.

46. 15 Our Father Manner of saying the Rosary well.

- 1 Hail Mary It must be said with a pure heart without attachment to grave sin.
 - 2 Hail Mary In a worthy manner with good intentions.
 - 3 Hail Mary With attention avoiding voluntary distractions.
 - 4 Hail Mary Slowly and calmly with pauses in the prayers.
 - 5 Hail Mary Devout whilst meditating on the mysteries.
 - 6 Hail Mary Modestly and in a respectful attitude whether standing or kneeling.
 - 7 Hail Mary Wholeheartedly and every day.
 - 8 Hail Mary Inwardly when it is said alone.
 - 9 Hail Mary Publicly and in two responding groups.
 - 10 Hail Mary Perseveringly until death.
- 47. 16** Our Father Different methods of saying the holy Rosary.
- 1 Hail Mary The holy Rosary can be said in a straightforward manner, saying only the Our Fathers and Hail Marys with the intentions of the mysteries.
 - 2 Hail Mary We can add a word to each mystery of the decade.
 - 3 Hail Mary We can make a little offering at each decade.
 - 4 Hail Mary We can make a more important offering at each decade.
 - 5 Hail Mary We can have a special intention for each Hail Mary.
 - 6 Hail Mary We can recite it inwardly without speaking.
 - 7 Hail Mary We can genuflect at each Hail Mary.
 - 8 Hail Mary We can prostrate at each Hail Mary.
 - 9 Hail Mary We can give ourselves a stroke of the discipline.
 - 10 Hail Mary We can commemorate the saints at each decade and blend with one of the above-mentioned methods as the Holy Spirit inspires.

Appendix

The Principal Rules Of The Confraternity of the Holy Rosary

48.Members should:

- 1 Have their names written in the register of the confraternity and, if possible, go to Confession and Communion and say the Rosary on the day they are enrolled.
- 2 Possess a blessed rosary.
- 3 Say the Rosary every day or at least once a week.
- 4 Whenever possible, go to Confession and Communion on the first Sunday of every month and take part in the Rosary processions.

Remember that none of these rules binds under pain of sin.

On the Power and Dignity of the Rosary

49.Through the Rosary, hardened sinners of both sexes became converted and began to lead a holy life, regretting their past sins with genuine tears of sorrow. Even children performed unbelievable penances, and devotion to my Son and to me spread so much that it seemed almost as though angels were living on earth. Faith was increasing and many of the faithful longed to shed their blood for it and fight against heretics....

50."Thus, through the sermons of my very dear Dominic and through the power of the Rosary the heretical regions became submissive to the Church. Almsgiving became widespread; churches and hospitals were built; people led pure and honourable lives; real wonders were accomplished. Holiness and unworldliness were seen everywhere; the church was seen as honourable; princes were just; people lived at peace with one another and justice and equity reigned in the guilds and in the home. More impressive still, workmen did not take up their tools until after they had greeted me by saying my Rosary and they did not retire at night without again praying to me on their knees. If they remembered in the middle of the night that they had not offered me this tribute, they would immediately rise from their bed and greet me with even greater respect, and with sorrow for their lapse. The Rosary became so well known that people who were devout were considered by others as being obviously confraternity members. If a man lived openly in sin or blasphemed, it was commonly said: "This man cannot possibly be a brother of St. Dominic." I must not fail to mention the signs and wonders that I have wrought and put in different lands through the holy Rosary.

"I have stopped pestilences and put an end to horrible wars and averted bloodshed, besides strengthening those who said the Rosary in order to avoid sin. When you say the Rosary the angels rejoice in it, the holy Trinity delights in it, my son finds joy in it and I myself am happier than you can possibly imagine. After the holy Sacrifice of the Mass there is nothing that I love so much as the holy Rosary." (Cf. Blessed Alan de la Roche)....

51."Having been strongly urged to do so by St. Dominic, all the brothers and sisters of his Order honoured my Son and me unceasingly and in an indescribably beautiful way by saying this psalter of the Holy Trinity. Every day each one of them said at least one complete Rosary. If anybody failed to say it he felt that the whole of his day was spoiled. The brothers of St. Dominic had so great a love for this holy devotion that it made them hurry to church or choir more willingly. If one of them was seen to carry out his duties carelessly the others would say with assurance, "Dear brother, you must not be saying Mary's psalter any more or else you are saying it badly."

52. On the Dignity of the Hail Mary

The holy angels in heaven salute the most Blessed Virgin with the Hail Mary not audibly but with their angelic mind. For they are fully aware that through it reparation was made for the fallen angels' sin, God became man

and the world was renewed" (Blessed Alan). "I myself, knowing the power of this greeting by the Lord, repeated it with great fervour. Indeed, realizing my own human nature, I begged Mary for a share in her divine life of grace and glory" (Blessed Alan). "One night when a woman member of the Confraternity had retired, Our Lady appeared to her and said, 'My daughter, do not be afraid of me. I am your loving Mother whom you praise so faithfully every day. Be steadfast and persevere. I want you to know that the Hail Mary gives me so much joy that no man could ever really describe it'" (Guillaume Pepin, In Rosario aureo, Sermon 47).

53. "This was corroborated by a vision of St. Gertrude. In her revelations, Book IV, chapter XI, we find this story:

"On the morning of the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary while the Ave Maria was being sung in Gertrude's monastery, she had a vision in which three streams gushed forth from the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and gently flowed into the heart of the Virgin Mary. From this heart these streams flowed back impetuously to their source. From this, Gertrude learned that the Blessed Trinity has allowed Our Lady to be the most powerful after God the Father, the wisest after God the Son and the most loving after God the Holy Spirit. She also learned that every time the Hail Mary is said by the faithful the three mysterious streams surround Our Lady in a mighty current rush to her heart. After they have completely bathed her in happiness they gush back into the bosom of God. The saints and angels share in this abundance of joy, as do the faithful on earth who say this prayer, for the Hail Mary is the source of all good for God's children.

54. "Listen to what Our Lady herself said to Saint Mechtilde: 'Never has any man composed anything more beautiful than the Hail Mary. No greeting could be dearer to my heart than those beautiful and dignified words that God the Father addressed to me himself.' Our Lady one day said to Saint Mechtilde, 'All the Hail Marys you have given me are blazoned on my cloak. She then held out a portion of her mantle, saying, 'When this part of my cloak is full of Hail Marys I shall gather you up and take you into the Kingdom of my beloved Son.'" Denis the Carthusian, speaking of a vision of Our Lady to one of her clients, said, "We should greet the Blessed Virgin with our hearts, our lips and our deeds, so that she will not be able to say to us, 'These people honour me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.'"

55. Richard of St. Laurence lists the reasons why it is good to say a Hail Mary at the beginning of a sermon:

- 1 The Church militant should follow the example of Saint Gabriel who saluted Mary with great respect saying "Hail Mary," before he told her the joyous news: "Behold you shall conceive and bear a Son...." Thus the Church greets the Virgin before announcing the gospel.
- 2 The congregation will derive more fruit from a sermon that is prefaced by the Hail Mary. The priest who gives the sermon has the angel's role. But in order that the congregation may give birth to Christ in their

souls (by faith) they must first obtain this grace from the Blessed Virgin who gave birth to him the first time, and so together with her, they will become mothers of the Son of God. For without Mary they cannot produce Jesus in their souls.

- 3 The gospel shows us the effectiveness of the Hail Mary and people will receive help from Our Lady through this prayer.
- 4 Through the Hail Mary, priests avoid pitfalls in their preaching, for Mary gives enlightenment to preachers.
- 5 The congregation, following Our Lady's example, listens more attentively and is more apt to remember the Word of God.
- 6 The devil, who is the enemy of the human race and of the preaching of the gospel, is driven off by the Hail Mary. This is most necessary because, to quote Our Lord's words, there is a danger of his coming to take the Word of God out of people's hearts, "lest believing they might be saved."

56.In his first sermon on the holy Rosary Clement Losow says: After St. Dominic had gone to heaven, devotion to the Rosary waned and it was nearly extinct, when a terrible pestilence broke out in several parts of the country. The afflicted people sought the advice of a saintly hermit who lived a very austere life in the desert. They besought him to pray to God for them. The holy man called upon the Mother of the Saviour, imploring her as advocate of sinners to come to the aid of the people. Mary appeared and said, 'These people have stopped singing my praises; that is why these misfortunes have come upon them. Let them return to the devotion of the Rosary and they will again enjoy my protection. I shall obtain the graces of salvation for them if they honour me by saying the Rosary for this psalter is very pleasing to me.' So the people did what Mary asked and made themselves rosaries which they said with all their heart."
